



# Jordan Times

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## Lufthansa-chartered Dash-8 crashes, at least one dead

PARIS (AP) — A twin-engine passenger plane chartered by the German airline Lufthansa crashed near Paris Charles de Gaulle international airport Wednesday, killing at least one person, airport police reported. The twin-engine Dash-8, which belonged to the German firm Stuttgart Contact Air, was carrying 19 passengers and a crew of three, a Lufthansa spokesman in Frankfurt said. At least three people were injured when the propeller plane hit the ground, according to the airport police. The plane, on a flight from Bremen in Germany, crashed as it was attempting to land at the airport north of Paris at around 8:00 p.m. (1900 GMT), police said. According to the authoritative Jane's All the World's Aircraft, the Dash-8, made by the Canadian aircraft manufacturer De Havilland, a division of Boeing of Canada, typically carries 37 passengers. The plane went down in a field near a local road close to the airport, police said. It was not immediately clear if the dead and injured were among those aboard the plane or had been on the ground at the time of the accident, police said. Rescuers from the airport rushed to the scene, they said, adding that the death toll was preliminary and could rise.

## Knesset imposes curbs on Mahameed

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli parliament Wednesday restricted the freedom of movement of an Arab legislator who encouraged Palestinians to use "all means" to fight Israeli occupation. The Knesset (parliament) voted 54-48 to strip Hashem Mahameed of the Communist Party of his parliamentary immunity which allowed him to travel freely in Israel and the occupied territories for three months. "The result is 54 in favour, 48 against. The immunity has been removed," said Knesset Speaker Shimon Peres. The sanctions would mean police could prevent Mr. Mahameed from entering restricted military areas and visiting prisons during the period. He could be kept out of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr. Mahameed, a resident and former mayor of the town of Umm Al Fahm, made a speech in support of the Palestinian uprising during a visit to the Gaza Strip by 100 Israeli Arabs on Dec. 24. "As long as there is occupation there is struggle — and a struggle is not only by the stone but by all means," he told cheering Palestinians. The rally was broadcast on Israel Television.

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## Yemeni leader congratulates King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a telephone call from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who congratulated the King on his safe return home and wished him continued good health. King Hussein thanked the Yemeni leader and wished him good health and happiness and the Yemeni people further progress and prosperity.

## Crown Prince attends exercises

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday attended a day-long training session by several Royal Military Police units. The Crown Prince watched military drills and a display of martial arts exercises and visited an exhibition of the Military Rehabilitation Centre displaying handicraft.

## Hassan II meets Prince Mohammad

FEZ, Morocco (Petra) — King Hassan II of Morocco received at the royal palace in Fez Wednesday His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein. The meeting reviewed Jordan-Moroccan relations. The Moroccan monarch voiced his satisfaction over the close relations between Jordan and Morocco and asked Prince Mohammad to convey his greetings to King Hussein. Prince Mohammad conveyed the greetings of King Hussein. Prince Mohammad arrived in Morocco recently on a private visit.

## Turkish company files claim against Iraq

GENEVA (R) — A Turkish construction company has filed the first corporate claim against Iraq to a U.N. tribunal set up after the 1991 Gulf war, diplomats said Wednesday. ENKA construction and industry company asked for \$264.3 million for losses over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, which forced it to abandon the Bekme Dam project in northeastern Iraq, according to a Turkish diplomat. The U.N. compensation commission began accepting corporate claims from Jan. 1, and the Ankara-based firm was the first to formally register a claim, contained in 26 large boxes delivered by truck Monday.

## China, Oman urge peaceful solutions

MUSCAT (AP) — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and his Omani counterpart, Yousef Ben Alawi, Wednesday pledged to encourage peaceful settlements to regional disputes, the official Oman News Agency reported. "Points of view were similar on certain political issues," Mr. Ben Alawi told the agency after a meeting with his Chinese guest. "The two countries call for peace and stability, and encourage rapprochement between disputing parties." He said he reviewed with Mr. Qian developments in the Gulf and the Middle East and the outcome of an October meeting in Beijing of a joint committee supervising trade and industrial cooperation. Mr. Qian's visit to Oman coincided with a trip to Beijing by Iran's revolutionary guards commander, Mohsen Rezaei. China is a key supplier of arms to Iran, which is embroiled in a dispute with the United Arab Emirates over three strategic Gulf islands.

## Former Iran MP to go on trial

NJCOSIA (R) — A former Iranian parliament deputy will go on trial next month for killing a man during a partridge hunt, the first member of the country's Islamic elite to be tried for a major common crime. The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted a judicial source as saying Wednesday that Jalaleddin Farsi's trial would open at the criminal court in Karaj, 40 kilometres west of Tehran, on Feb. 20. He is accused of shooting dead Sader Rezaei, a villager, after they were hunting partridge in the Taleqan mountains near Karaj in September, IRNA said.

# House gives overwhelming endorsement to '93 budget

## Sharif Zeid stresses efforts to address poverty, unemployment and to push administrative reform

By Ayman Al Safadi and Masa Alouf  
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The House of Parliament Wednesday gave an overwhelming vote of confidence to the draft budget for 1993 despite the criticism the document received from the majority of the 55 deputies who commented on it in four days of debate.

Fifty-eight out of the 69 deputies who attended the longest session of the 11th Parliament voted in favour of the document. Eleven parliamentarians were not present when the draft budget was endorsed as presented by the government.

The House also gave its approval to the recommendations of the Finance Committee, even though it was not clear what the vote would amount to since the budget passed unchanged.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker responded to the committee's recommendation to raise by

JD 20 the salaries of public sector employees by saying "the raise will be granted when the projected increase in revenue is achieved and in retroactive effect to Jan. 1." He said the government expected an increase in revenues.

Finance Minister Basel Jarrah told the Jordan Times earlier the raise would not be granted if it led to a rise in the projected budget deficit and said the government would "ideally" be able to assess its revenues by mid-year.

And even though Sharif Zeid did not specify the amount of the expected raise, Finance Committee Chairman Abdullah Akailah said he had enough assurances the government would grant its employees the JD 20 raise his committee recommended.

"The raise will be substantial," Sharif Zeid told the Jordan Times before leaving the House.

In an address to the House

## 11 Islamists, leftists cast negative votes

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The 1993 draft budget was passed Wednesday by 58 of 69 deputies present with only a handful of hardcore Islamists and four other leftist and nationalist deputies voting against.

While bloc voting has been in disarray for some time, three of the Parliament's five blocs voted "according to party line during the vote. The 15-member Nationalist Bloc (most of whose members were absent), the 15-member Constitutional Bloc and the six-member Independent Bloc all voted in favour of the government's budget proposal. The Muslim Brotherhood Bloc and the Democratic Bloc split their

votes. "While parliamentary observers had predicted earlier on in the debate that up to 20 deputies would vote against the budget, that estimate proved to be an over-estimation of the opposition to the budget proposal."

While some observers had expected up to six members of the nine-member Democratic Bloc to vote against the draft law, only three members, Faris Nabulsi, Mansour Murad and Bassam Haddadin, chose to do so when the count was taken Wednesday at noon.

But split voting has been common among members of the leftist and liberal Democratic Bloc for most of the last three years.

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## Israel indifferent to U.N. effort

TEL AVIV (Agency) — Israel said Wednesday its decision to expel more than 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon was final and it expected nothing from a visit by a second U.N. envoy sent to demand Israel take them back.

Chinmaya Gharekhan, special envoy of U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, is due to Israel Thursday in an attempt to persuade the Jewish state to let home the 415 Palestinians expelled 20 days ago.

"Boutros-Ghali asked me to send an envoy. I agreed. It doesn't change at all my firm opinion those 415 people who were temporarily removed will not return to Israel before the period ends," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Wednesday.

Israel says the evictees can return to their homes in the occupied territories after period of between nine months and two years.

Dr. Ghali told the U.N. Security Council Monday he might have to recommend further steps to make Israel comply if Mr. Gharekhan failed to secure their return.

"All we can do is say we will receive him (Gharekhan) in a civilised, open, and friendly way. More than that we have no expectations," Israel's ambassador

to the United Nations, Gad Yaacobi, told army radio.

He said Dr. Ghali's warning to the Security Council, which demanded on Dec. 18 that Israel take back the evictees, was unacceptable to Israel and would not help Mr. Gharekhan's attempts to deal with the problem.

Israel expelled the Palestinians on Dec. 17 for alleged links to Muslim groups it said killed five soldiers.

On Wednesday it announced it had arrested 22 alleged members of an Islamic Palestinian group that attacked soldiers in Hebron in the occupied West Bank.

In the occupied territories, Israeli troops shot and wounded three people in Jabalya camp in Gaza and two in Yatta near Hebron during a general strike called each month by the Islamic Jihad movement, Palestinians said.

Officials said Israel welcomed the chance to explain its position to Gharekhan, the second U.N. envoy in two weeks, and that its position was unchanged so long as leaders of the Islamic groups were bent on anti-Israeli violence.

"I do believe a solution will be found," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on U.S. television. "There are still many

alternatives that we have not used." He did not elaborate.

The U.N.-chief said in Cairo Wednesday he and Mr. Gharekhan would lay down a plan for Thursday's talks with the Israelis "to find a sound settlement" to the problem. He declined to elaborate.

The expelled Palestinians accused Israel of stalling to block their return home.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which cares for Palestinian refugees, said it was seriously concerned at the worsening health of many of the men, left in a freezing South Lebanon tent camp for 20 days.

In order to prevent this tragedy from worsening, I urge the international community to act quickly to find ways of providing emergency humanitarian assistance," UNRWA chief Iltis Turkmen added.

The 415 expelled men however called on Mr. Gharekhan to demand the Jewish state take them back instead of trying to arrange for supplies to reach their camp.

"If the arrival of the new envoy is to force Israel to implement (U.N. Security Council) Resolution 799 then that would be an excellent step," said Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi, a leader of the evictees.

## Israeli paper reports 'secret' talks with Syria

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli newspaper said Wednesday that Israel and Syria held secret talks in a European capital within the last two weeks.

The Jerusalem Post, quoting senior Israeli officials, said the meeting was "ostensibly" outside the framework of Middle East peace talks.

Asked about the report, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben-Ari insisted the only contacts with Syria were through formal Middle East peace talks, due to resume in Washington in February or March.

But the Post said Israel sent "three representatives of the prime minister's office and the defence ministry" to the meeting in Europe.

"After completing the discussions, whose remains undisclosed, Israel's representatives put forward the idea for a territorial discussion ... the Syrians informed their Israeli counterparts by phone shortly thereafter that there was no need for a second meeting," the paper said.

Israel's talks with Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians have been in recess since

## Somalis agree in principle to national conference

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Somali factions agreed in principle Wednesday to hold a national reconciliation conference in their war-torn capital in April.

The rivals, meeting under United Nations auspices, also discussed a possible ceasefire in Somalia, where warfare, badmity and drought have killed at least 350,000 people.

The breakthrough came on the third day of meeting that had been marked by insults and shouting between the 14 invited groups. The original conference was only supposed to be two days.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali warned the factions Tuesday that international forces struggling to feed their starving people might give up and leave if an agreement was not reached.

Dr. Ghali left early Wednesday for Ethiopia's breakaway north-eastern republic of Eritrea and then flew on to his native Eritrea.

On Wednesday, the group supporting Somalia's most powerful warlord, Mohammad Farah Aided, said the factions should reconvene here in one month, said conference sources.

The meeting next month would review conditions before a conference in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, according to conference sources, who declined to be identified.

said it was too early to discuss a time and place for the proposed national reconciliation conference.

A second group, the Somali Salvation Democratic Front, argued for the reconciliation meeting to be held in Washington, the sources said.

The factions agreed Wednesday that a committee should prepare for the April conference, but they were not able to agree to the committee's composition, the sources said.

Discussions on the matter continued late Wednesday, and the conference was to continue Thursday.

Dr. Ghali on Tuesday warned against the conference's failure. "This is a purely humanitarian operation. It was not easy to obtain," Dr. Ghali told the conference. "The international community could forget it in less than 24 hours. The Somalis must preserve this intervention."

In a sign of U.S. resolve to crack down, in Somalia, special envoy Robert Oakley said in Washington Tuesday the United States was about to step up efforts to collect heavy weapons from armed factions in Somalia in a bid to wrest power from warlords who dominate the country.

"Now that we have more forces on the ground and those forces

## Shaath does not rule out peace talks despite expulsions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official close to Middle East peace talks told an Arab East Jerusalem magazine he did not rule out Palestinians joining a new round of negotiations even if Israel refused to take back 400 evictees stranded in Lebanon.

Nabil Shaath, an aide to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said in an interview published in Al Bayader Al Shiabi magazine that he believed the next round of talks would take place in Washington in the first half of February.

"We should look at the two battles separately... a decision regarding the peace process should not come as a result of the criminal and arbitrary order taken by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin," Al Bayader quoted Dr. Shaath as saying.

"Even if there was a decision to return to the negotiations table before the return of the evictees, the battle of their return should continue at the negotiations table and outside," he said.

Palestinian negotiators have indicated they would not return to the peace talks unless Israel takes back the evictees it banished to South Lebanon on Dec. 17.

Arab negotiators from Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Israeli-occupied territories boycotted the last day of the thirteenth round of talks in Washington last month in protest at the expulsions. No date has been set for the next round of talks.

## Arafat meets Mubarak

Mr. Arafat held talks with President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo Wednesday on the fate of the 415 Palestinians, officials said.

They said the meeting was attended by Osama Al Baz, Mr. Mubarak's top political adviser, and Saeed Kamal, the Palestinian ambassador to Cairo.

They refused to give further details.

Mr. Arafat arrived in the Egyptian capital Tuesday night and planned to stay for several days.

It was still not known if the PLO leader would meet U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, who was also in Cairo.

The secretary-general said he would hold talks with his new special emissary, Chinmaya Gharekhan, on a plan to resolve the crisis over the evictees during talks in Israel Thursday.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Wednesday addresses the Lower House of Parliament at the conclusion of the House debate on the 1993 draft budget (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## U.S. and allies prepare ultimatum over Iraq missiles

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush told congressional leaders Wednesday he was weighing action against an Iraqi anti-aircraft missile threat, and sources said the United States and its allies were preparing an ultimatum to Baghdad.

The diplomatic sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the United States, Britain and France would demand that Iraq withdraw surface-to-air missiles it has deployed in southern Iraq where they menace allied warplanes enforcing "no-fly zone" against Iraqi aircraft.

Mr. Bush discussed the crisis, which has erupted in the final two weeks of his presidency, during an Oval Office meeting with congressional leaders that lasted over an hour.

"The president said that he's consulting with our allies. He has made no decision, he's weighing all options," Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell told reporters.

Also present were House Speaker Tom Foley, Senate Republican leader Bob Dole and House Republican leader Bob Michel.

They said no decision had been made on a deadline for removal of the missiles, but that Mr. Bush was determined to prevail in the latest test of wills with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Mitchell said Mr. Bush told the leaders that he was president

until 1200 EST (1700 GMT) on Jan. 20 and was prepared to use the powers of that office until President-elect Bill Clinton takes the oath of office and succeeds him.

The diplomats said in New York that Iraq would be given 48 hours to remove the missiles and stop locking its radar onto U.S. planes patrolling the "no-fly zone."

Final wording of the warning is being discussed there by American, French, British and Russian diplomats and was to be presented later Wednesday or Thursday to Nizar Hamdoun, the Iraqi representative at the United Nations.

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## Tanker threatens huge oil spill

SUMBURGH, Scotland (R) — An oil tanker wrecked on the rocky shore of the Shetland islands began breaking up on Wednesday threatening to disgorge its huge load into wildlife areas and fishing grounds.

"It is breaking up. The bow is moving," an official from the Department of Transport marine pollution control unit said.

The Liberian-registered and American-owned Braer ran onto the jagged rocks Tuesday after losing power in heavy weather on its way to Quebec, Canada, with an 84,500-tonne load of Norwegian crude.

As dawn broke Wednesday pollution control experts hoped a major European pollution disaster could be averted because the vessel had apparently survived the night in one piece. But by late afternoon the worst was feared as it began to come apart.

The Department of Transport official said a salvage team had been trying to board the tanker to assess the damage and the amount of oil still on board when the tanker began to break up.

A 11-kilometre slick stretched from the vessel, which went aground with its load of heavy, sulphurous oil — double that spilled in Alaska by the Exxon Valdez in 1989.

Government aircraft bombarded the slick with chemicals to try to disperse the brown mousse stretching from the ship, westwards towards rich fishing grounds and some of the most precious wildlife areas in Europe.

The American owner of the Braer, Bergvall Hudner Shipping, Wednesday expressed a "deep regret" at the accident.

Questions have been raised about the cause of the wreck. Crew members said the Braer lost all power and control after slatwater entered the fuel supply.

"The cause of the engine breakdown and blackout is under investigation and the owners are cooperating fully with both the Liberian flag and the U.K. government inquiries," the company said in a statement received in London.

It said the ship was fully certified by leading authorities and

had passed its annual U.S. coast-guard inspection within the last two months.

Barry Cork, managing director of Star Offshore in Aberdeen, said his firm's tug Star Sirius had reached the stricken tanker two hours before it went aground. "But unfortunately there was no one on the tanker" to help attach a tow line, Mr. Cork told British radio.

Some crew were put back on the tanker about 20 minutes before it hit the rocks, but they were unable to hook up with the tug, he said.

"If there had been somebody on the ship prepared to give him a wire or a line on the tanker, (the tug captain) could have connected up and without any doubt ... this thing wouldn't have happened," Mr. Cork said.

Bob Driver, regional controller of coast guard search and rescue in Aberdeen, defended the decision to evacuate the crew of 34. "The first priority is the safety of life, and that was the crew," he said.

## Status of detainees in Egypt unclear

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Reports that about 90 Jordanians detained in Egyptian jails have launched a hunger-strike to protest their detention could not be independently confirmed, but sources said efforts were under way to ascertain details of Jordanian prisoners in Egypt.

According to a report in the Paris-based Al Muharrar newspaper which was quoted by the Arabic-language daily Al Dustour, 89 Jordanian detainees are on hunger-strike — 12 of them in Cairo's Turra prison and the rest in the notorious Abu Zabel prison — to protest their "arbitrary detention."

The report named the 89, but did not give further details. The Egyptian embassy in Amman said it had no information and referred all inquiries to the Foreign Ministry in Cairo.

Informed sources, however, confirmed that dozens of Jordanian passport-holders were detained in Egyptian jails but asserted that the detention were on "security grounds."

According to the sources, most of the detainees are of Palestinian origin holding Jordanian passport. They include Islamist activists as well as those who once fought with the Afghan Mujahideen and went to Egypt and Sudan after the end of the Afghan civil war.

Others include students as well as alleged activists of various Palestinian groups such as Hamas and other radical factions, the sources said. "Some of them were detained after being found involved with Egyptian underground groups while others were caught trying to smuggle arms and explosives into Egyptian territory," said one of the sources, adding that the arrests were made at "various Egyptian border points, including (the port of) Nuweibeh as well as Cairo airport."

Other sources said the Jordanian government was in touch with the Egyptian authorities to get complete details of Jordanians being held in Egypt, the circumstances of

their arrest and the charges, if any, they are convicted of or are under trial for.

There was no immediate means to ascertain the total number of Jordanian passport-holders held in Egyptian jails, but informed sources said it was definitely more than the 88 reported by Al Muharrar.

According to the sources, most of the detainees have not been put on trial or charged with any crime since emergency provisions permit the authorities to detain suspects without trial.

Families of some of the detained have approached the Jordanian government appealing for intervention to secure their release.

The detainees include several people who were found to have travelled to Iraq recently.

Travellers say Jordanians have to go through harassment at customs and security inspections at Egyptian border points. Anyone who is found to have travelled to Iraq recently is turned back, according

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A Palestinian evictee dries his clothes in front of his tent in south Lebanon (AFP photo)

## Israeli expulsion deprived Palestinian negotiators of mandate, delegate says

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian negotiator has said he feared Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians last month has cost his delegation the popular support necessary to continue Middle East peace talks.

"What enabled us to negotiate was that we maintained a majority in support of the talks. But now, we have lost that majority," said Ghassan Al Khatib, a delegate from the occupied West Bank.

The 14 Palestinian peace negotiators were selected by local leaders from the occupied territories before the talks began in Oct. 1991.

Opinion polls taken shortly after showed a majority among the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip supported the talks.

Though there have been no opinion polls since the Dec. 17 expulsions, many Palestinian negotiators have reported support for the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and other groups opposed to Middle East peace talks has surged in the past month.

The 415 Palestinians expelled to Lebanon were accused by Israel of links to Hamas and other rejectionist groups. The peace negotiators are backed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation which rivals Hamas for leadership in the occupied territories.

Mr. Rabin has said the expulsions would weaken opponents of talks between Israel and Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestinians.

But Palestinians have argued the expulsion was a major blow to the peace process and warned they would not attend a new round of talks unless Israel returns the evictees.

The evictees are now stuck in harsh conditions in Israeli and Lebanese lines.

"We will not attend the negotiations unless the (expellees) are returned home and unless new terms for the negotiations are found," said chief Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi on Monday.

Dr. Abdul Shafi and other negotiators have been frustrated by the lack of progress during the eight round of talks in Washington. Arab delegates boycotted the final day of the last round in protest at the expulsions.

The talks are expected to resume in February or March but no date has been set.

### Libai: 'Grave step'

Justice Minister David Libai, the only Israeli cabinet minister to oppose the expulsions, broke his silence Tuesday calling it a "grave step."

Speaking to Israel Television, Mr. Libai based his opposition mainly on legal grounds saying the expellees were never given a chance to appeal before being bused to Lebanon on Dec. 17.

Israel rushed the expulsions past the customary procedures, ultimately backed by the supreme court, in a crackdown on the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements, groups blamed for the slayings of six Israeli troops.

But Lebanon refused to take them and they have remained between Lebanese and Israeli forces.

"The supreme court has ruled in the past that it was possible to deport people," Mr. Libai said. "But only under certain conditions — that every person slated for deportation had the right to appeal before hand."

He said the decision to deport people before an appeal "cancels their elementary rights."

"In effect, the government of Israel has been given the opportunity to load people ... onto buses or ships and deport them without even giving them the right to determine whether it is them or not, or whether the suspicions against them are with foundation," Mr. Libai said.

"This is the main question which troubles those who have doubts over this grave step," he added.

Indeed, Israel has admitted that at least 10 of the 415 were expelled due to mistaken identification and can return. Their return, however, has been complicated by a deadlock over what route they should take.

Mr. Libai, who on Tuesday became the first minister of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government to visit a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank, was interviewed in the town of Ariel.

Mr. Libai hinted Mr. Rabin let him out of the expulsion decision and therefore he had little influence in halting it. He said he later pleaded for a postponement in order to reexamine the matter, but this was rejected.

Also Tuesday, the visiting chairman of the Russian parliament voiced his opposition to the expulsions calling it a "tragedy."

Winding up a two-day tour, Russian Ambassador warned that all sides had to be careful not to take steps that would endanger the Middle East peace talks, sponsored jointly by the United States and Russia.

Mr. Libai said he, attorney general Yosef Harish and state prosecutor Dorit Beinisch only learned of the expulsion plan "very close to the time of taking the decision."

Mr. Beinisch refused to represent the state in civil rights appeals against the expulsions in the high court of justice. Mr. Harish, in a rare court appearance, argued for the government.

Israel said the evictees could appeal their expulsion indirectly through relatives to a military tribunal only after they were banished.

They are to visit Japan.

Saeed Erekat, another Palestinian delegate from the occupied territories will pay an 11-day visit to Japan from Sunday to a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Wednesday.

Dr. Erekat is a professor at Al Najah University in the West Bank city of Nablus and a deputy to the head of the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks. He will meet senior ministry officials and business leaders.

The ministry said it was inviting Dr. Erekat to promote the talks.

## Yemen gives militant 24 hours to surrender

ADEN, Yemen (R) — Yemen's government Wednesday gave a fugitive Muslim militant 24 hours to surrender to troops ringing his mountain hideout, security sources said.

They said the deadline gave three members of parliament more time to negotiate with Tareq Ben Nasser Ben Hussein Al Fadhl, wanted in connection with bombings and an assassination attempt in Aden, to give himself up.

Mr. Fadhl, a member of the families that controlled South Yemen before its independence from Britain in 1967, has been hiding in the Al Maragha mountains, north of Ibban province 70 kilometres east of Aden, since Friday.

Troops besieged his family's mountain stronghold east of Aden after previous efforts failed to persuade him to surrender.

The sources said Mr. Fadhl, 26, son of the last sultan of Ibban, has heavy weapons and is backed by 70 to 100 followers.

They said he was given a guarantee for his safety if he surrendered but was told he would be prosecuted if found to

be connected with the bombings or assassination attempt.

An Interior Ministry official said Mr. Fadhl was a suspect in an assassination attempt on a Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) member and bombings in two hotels in Aden last month.

His family fled to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries after South Yemen's independence but returned under a general amnesty when North and South Yemen united in 1990.

Two Muslim militants were arrested for a machinegun attack two weeks ago on Ali Saleh Ubaid Mubel, head of the YSP branch in Ibban, in which Mr. Mubel and a bodyguard were wounded.

Police said the attackers were trained and fought with the Mujahadeen against Soviet troops in Afghanistan and told police Mr. Fadhl planned Mr. Mubel's killing.

Police also arrested two Muslim militants for bomb blasts in two Adeo hotels last Tuesday which killed an Austrian tourist and a Yemeni hotel worker. Police said the militants belonged to the Jihad organisation.

## Algerian press in furore over arrest of journalists

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria's independent press unanimously denounced Wednesday the detention of six journalists ordered to stand trial for reporting the killing of five gendarmes.

In a joint statement headlined "Free our colleagues" seven newspapers called for immediate release of the journalists from the newspaper Al Watan.

They published the demand amid growing tension between the press and the army-backed government which announced Tuesday it will soon impose censorship on security reports in its war with Muslim militants.

An Algiers judge ordered the journalists Tuesday to stand trial on five charges punishable with up to 10 years' jail, according to the official news agency APS.

They include Al Watan's managing director Omar Belhouche, its managing editor, and editor and three staff.

They were arrested Saturday and the newspaper suspended for reporting the killing of the gendarmes by suspected militants of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) whom authorities blame for killing 210 members of the security forces in 1992.

The facts of last week's killings have not been challenged by the official press.

The Communications Ministry said Al Watan was suspended for "premature" reporting of an event in a place covered by "national defence secrecy."

The gendarmes told Algerian journalists the newspaper had not given them time to deploy forces to track the gendarmes' killers or to contact the families of the dead men.

They said the source of the report must have been the killers of a "mole" in the security services whose identity they demanded.

The charges against the Al Watan journalists include deliberate publication of false or tendentious information likely to undermine state security, and divulging military information not cleared by the authorities.

The statement signed by the managing directors of the seven newspapers said journalists were not above the law but were not "terrorists" nor their accomplices.

"The incarceration of our colleagues from Al Watan deals a very severe blow against the cohesion of the forces who struggle, each day against the ruin of institutions and violence," it added.

A separate statement by Al

Watan called the charges "abusive, arbitrary, illegal and scandalous." It said they amounted to "an orchestrated conspiracy."

Relations between the press and the authorities have grown increasingly tense since Algeria's experiment with democracy went wrong last year.

Muslim militants launched a guerrilla war against the government because it cancelled a general election which the FIS was poised to win, outlawed the movement and imposed a national state of emergency.

Authorities have since suspended several papers but deny "any intention to undermine the press or journalists."

They say the top priority is to crush "terrorists" — the official term for the militants.

Those facing trial are managing director Omar Belhouche, managing editor Abdelhak Merad, editor Tayeb Belghiche, and journalists: Ouhel Belkhal, Ahmad Aitker and Nacera Benali.

Newspapers which signed the joint statement were Le Journal, Le Matin, Alger Republicain, Al Machar, Al Khabar, L'Opinion, Le Soir d'Algerie.

Government spokesman Messaoud Ait Challal said Tuesday information concerning all aspects of security would be subject to an "embargo" and publishable only after "the accord of the competent services." There was no elaboration.

"We need a varied press which criticises us, suggests actions, corrects us," the spokesman said. "But there are sacred limits not to go beyond stemming from respect for the higher interests of the nation."

There has heretofore been no rules governing reporting by the Algerian press on almost daily attacks by armed fundamentalists on police or riotous by the security forces in their campaign to decimate the armed groups.

However, the press is already working under strict rules that are part of an anti-terrorism law issued in September, barring papers from publishing statements from underground groups that could be deemed subversive.

The attacks appear to have stepped up since a 10:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew was imposed Dec. 5 as part of the campaign.

Al Watan is not the first of Algeria's many dailies to come under fire for its reporting on the security situation. Other papers have been chastised for reporting unconfirmed incidents or information that proved false.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### France to auction off unpaid Iraqi parts

PARIS (R) — A French state firm is to auction off fighter plane parts ordered by Iraq before the Gulf war but never paid for, defence ministry officials said Wednesday. Mirage F1 engine parts worth 130 million francs (\$23.6 million) will come under the hammer at a public sale on Jan. 21. Proceeds will go toward settling Baghdad's debts to the French aircraft engine manufacturer Snecma. Iraq cannot pay for them or receive them because the country is covered by a United Nations arms embargo. The starting price will be 40 million francs (\$7.3 million), said auctioneer Francois Grisel acting for a Snecma subsidiary. Some 11 countries which fly Mirage F1 planes, including Venezuela, Ecuador, Greece, Spain and Kuwait — the country which Iraq invaded in 1990 — have been invited. Officials said they would have a final say on the sale. Libya, which is under a French arms embargo, was not invited.

### Israel grants \$380 million for Intel chip

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel approved a \$380 million grant to support a big upgrade of a plant of computer chip manufacturer Intel Israel. The money, spread over seven years, was approved under a law authorising state grants covering 38 per cent of high technology business ventures in occupied Jerusalem, Israeli Finance Minister Abraham Shohat said. The cost of the upgrade is estimated at \$1 billion. Treasury spokeswoman Elisheva Brann said it was now up to U.S.-based Intel Corporation, parent of Intel Israel, to give the plan its final go-ahead. Israel would then review the plan again, but officials said that review would be a formality. Intel Israel officials were unavailable for comment on the announcement. Intel had proposed a 10-year investment plan to Israel, but legally grants can only be for seven years, Ms. Brann said. Intel Israel, established in 1974, has facilities in Haifa, Tel Aviv and occupied Jerusalem.

### Russia criticises Israeli expulsions

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian Foreign Minister has said Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians violated international law. Spokesman Sergei Yastzhenbolsky, answering a question at a news briefing, said Moscow understood Israel's wish to protect its citizens from attack, but could not support the expulsions. "We consider them a violation of international law and of Israel's international obligations," he said. "We are counting on a satisfactory solution being found soon in the framework of the efforts of the U.N. secretary-general."

### Egyptian-born named for Israel prize

TEL AVIV (AP) — Egyptian-born scientist Ahmad H. Zewail was named Tuesday as the recipient of the 1993 Wolf Prize in chemistry. Dr. Zewail, 46, was born in Alexandria where he received his B.S. and master's degrees. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and has been a professor at the California Institute of Technology since 1976. Dr. Zewail was cited as a pioneer in the use of ultrafast lasers to study chemical reactions in "femtoseconds," or one thousandth-millionth of a second, a statement from the Wolf Foundation said.

It said by this method he obtained "the first direct observation of bond breakage in a molecule." The Israel-based Wolf Foundation awards \$100,000 annual prizes in chemistry, agriculture, mathematics, medicine, physics and the arts. The other prizes will be announced later. President Chaim Herzog will award the prizes on May 16. Wolf prizes were established in 1975 by the late Ricardo Wolf to promote science and art for the benefit of mankind. A German-born physicist, Wolf immigrated to Cuba before World War I and served as its ambassador to Israel, where he died in 1981.

### Israeli man buried as Russian woman

TEL AVIV (AP) — A man was buried as a dead Russian woman and when the mix-up was discovered minutes later he was dug up and reburied elsewhere, this time in the presence of his family, officials said Tuesday. The mistake was discovered when Yosef Maimon's children came to a hospital morgue to identify his body, but when they lifted the sheet they found a woman instead, said Hava Goldberg, spokeswoman of Haemek Hospital. Morticians and family members rushed to cemetery outside of the northern town of Afula and found that Maimon, who was 78 years old when he died, had already been buried in the Russian immigrant's place, she said. She said gravediggers, at the family's request, then dug Maimon's body out and replaced it with the woman's. The identity of the Russian immigrant was not immediately known. Reporters said the body-switch took place without informing the woman's family. The body mix-up, which took place Monday, drew the wrath of the regional religious head, Rabbi David Eluz, who ordered an investigation and vowed to take steps against those responsible. Goldberg said the mortician had apparently been pushed for time and "got confused."

### Swiss businessman denies Iran spying charges

ZURICH (AP) — A Swiss businessman jailed by Iran for 10 months returned home on bail Tuesday and denied Iranian spying charges. Hans Buehler, a salesman of communications equipment for government use, said he was arrested March 18 at a private party where he was served "a cold drink with home-made vodka." Drinking alcohol is banned in Iran. Mr. Buehler was charged with "illegal contacts with army officers," corruption and illegal consumption of alcoholic beverages. Illegal contacts with military personnel means espionage in Iran, Mr. Buehler, 52, was freed on bail Monday after a military court trial. His Swiss employer, the Crypto A.G. Company, said it paid the bail, saying it only as "very high." Mr. Buehler denied spying, "performed at the invitation of top government officials." Private or restaurant dinners with his Iranian colleagues were twisted into military espionage, he said. He said he had apologised for a \$150 cash gift to a military employee, which he said triggered the corruption charge.

## Pentagon proposes \$4.5b tank sale to Kuwait

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Pentagon has informed Congress of the proposed sale of \$4.5 billion in M1-A2 tanks and other military equipment to Kuwait, it was announced Tuesday.

If approved by Congress as expected, the move will boost weapons-related industries in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Indiana and California.

The move to purchase 256 Abrams tanks — a top-of-the-line U.S. weapon — is part of a 10-year plan to rebuild Kuwait's shattered defenses in the wake of the Gulf war.

The tanks will make up the bulk of Kuwait's armoured force, said a Pentagon official who asked not to be identified.

The proposed sale, which was announced at the Pentagon, is not expected to be opposed in Congress. Lawmakers have 30 days to vote down the sale.

The sale includes a large number of support vehicles and assorted armament, including 46 M-88 recovery vehicles, 125 armoured personnel carriers, 30 mortar carriers, 1,178 machine guns, 967 radio systems, 132 troop and cargo carriers, 460 tactical and commercial heavy equipment transporters, 130,000 rounds of 120-mm tank ammunition, spare and reserve parts and other items to maintain the equipment and train the Kuwaiti military that will use it, the announcement said.

"The sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which is an important force for stability and political and economic progress in the Middle East," the Pentagon statement said.

The announcement said the sale would require "the assignment of a significant number of

U.S. government personnel and contractor representatives" to Kuwait, but it did not say how many.

The Pentagon official said it would probably take up to two years for the tanks to be delivered.

Kuwait announced in October that it had chosen the Abrams over a British tank, but no specific numbers for the sale were announced.

There are still 17,000 U.S. military personnel in the Gulf region, but no breakdown was available on the number in Kuwait.

However, since the U.S.-led coalition drove Iraq from Kuwait in Operation Desert Storm, the Pentagon has staged near-constant exercises in Kuwait in the effort to bolster its military forces.

The sale of the M1-A2s, the main U.S. battle tank in the war,

comes as a White House spokesman said official are very concerned about Iraq's placement of anti-aircraft missiles near the area patrolled by U.S. fighter jets over Iraq's southern "no-fly" zone.

The United States in September of 1991 signed a defence cooperation agreement with Kuwait, which would give U.S. forces to the emirate in a regional emergency.

The Bush administration has pressed longtime U.S. ally Israel not to oppose continued arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other "moderate" Arab states. Saudi Arabia is still officially at war with Israel.

Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger assured the Israeli government in a letter last year that the United States would maintain U.S. military aid to the Jewish state as its current level of \$1.8 billion a year.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Documentary  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Varieties  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Uncle Buck  
21:10 ..... The Human Factor  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Movie of the week: "Corbuc Williams"

### PRAYER TIMES

05:09 ..... Fajr  
06:31 ..... Sunrise (Duba)  
11:40 ..... Dhahr  
14:25 ..... 'Asr  
16:39 ..... Maghreb  
18:11 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedeh Tel. 810741  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637400  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622466

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628343

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian Apostolic Church Tel. 827891, 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Low clouds will increase gradually, temperatures will drop and rain is expected to fall. Winds will be south-westerly fresh.

mm./max. temp.  
Amman ..... 03/10  
Aqaba ..... 7/14  
Dahat ..... 4/11  
Jordan Valley ..... 8/15

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Aqaba 16. Humidity readings: Amman 49 per cent, Aqaba 62 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mohammed Al Swai ..... 776149  
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim ..... 885880  
Dr. Mohammad Al Nabawi ..... 693925  
Dr. Khalid Mouda ..... 743501  
Firdous pharmacy ..... 661912  
Fardous pharmacy ..... 67055  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 770334  
Nairokh pharmacy ..... 62672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 63670  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shimani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najih pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Ali Al Saman ..... 244053  
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Zeyad Hawatneh ..... 932267  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 630341  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 845845  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

Electric Power ..... 636381

RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 18-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalid Maternity, J. Ann. .... 642816  
Abdali Maternity, J. Ann. .... 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsani ..... 6647114  
Shamsani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66612737  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6611646  
Italian, Al-Muasher ..... 77101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 7751126  
Army, Marka ..... 89161/115  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 60234059  
Anad Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
ZARQA Govt. Hospital ..... 0983323

Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)903560

Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)98732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)99990

IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)722775

Ibn Al Nafos Hospital ..... (02)327100

AQABA:  
Princess Hays Hospital ..... (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
05:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

07:15 ..... Sama (RJ)

07:15 ..... Riyadh (RJ)

07:15 ..... Cairo, Agata (RJ)

07:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)

10:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)

10:20 ..... Colombo (RJ)

17:00 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:00 ..... Dubai (RJ)



## Social services to be discussed

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 58 heads of municipal councils in Jordan are gathering Thursday at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) in Ramtha to discuss means of providing better services to the public and upgrade their performance.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Dr. Abdulrazzak Tabeishat called the meeting which will group heads of joint services councils in the Kingdom. Discussions will tackle means of stimulating the role of these councils in public safety and protection of environment affairs, according to a ministry statement.

The 58 notables represent 16 joint services councils in the governorates of Irbid, Amman, Madaba, Maan, Balqa, Karak, Zarqa, Mafraq and Tafleh. The brain child of this meeting was a call by His Royal Highness

Crown Prince Hassan during a municipalities seminar held in Irbid in September of 1977, the statement pointed out. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment is reported to be gearing up for contributing to the general efforts of the electrification of the rural regions and villages in Jordan.

Ministry Secretary General Assem Ghosheh announced that special technical teams from the ministry were preparing plans to be presented to the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) for the supply of electric power.

The government last month took the first practical step towards the implementation of a JD 25 million project for the electrification of 450 villages and settlements in rural regions in Jordan by signing deals to acquire loans for the project.

The Jordan Islamic Bank (JIB)

is to provide JD 6 million while the Social Security Corporation (SSC) will offer JD 2 million under the deals signed by minister of energy and mineral resources.

In 1993, 200 villages will be electrified under the supervision of the JEA, according to project director Samih Ujeilat.

Mr. Ghosheh said that a special ministry team is setting priorities as to which villages are to be electrified. The JEA has so far received 85 plans for villages and other areas to be electrified and the rest will be handed over in two weeks time, Mr. Ghosheh said.

He added that the ministry was coordinating efforts with the JEA in the course of implementing the project in which the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPSCO) and the Irbid District Electricity Company are involved.

## Jordan, Britain cooperate on business course

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman based Arab Institute for Banking Studies (AIBS) announced Wednesday that it has embarked on a distance learning educational programme for post graduate studies in business administration which is the first of its kind.

"We have reached an agreement with the Universities of Manchester and Wales in Great Britain to operate courses of distance learning for students seeking a masters degree in business administration and the programme started at the beginning of the new year," Dr. Mustafa Hudib AIBS director general, said.

He told the Jordan Times that a total of 40 participants on the course are Arab nationals from Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Oman.

"We are still receiving more and more applications for participation in this programme which is being run on a two term basis starting January and July each year," he said.

The programme, offers post graduate students the chance to acquire a degree recognised not only by Britain but also by the British Institute for Bankers.

Dr. Hudeib said that employees in banks, financial institutions, insurance companies and others can register in the course.

A total of 600 participants from around the world of whom 297 are from Britain have already taken the course. He said that these come from the USA, Canada, Latin America, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia in addition to the Arab world.

## Government bows to deputies

Measures adopted for official appointments

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Wednesday announced new measures designed to give fair treatment to all applications for work in public service in the coming three years.

In what was an unexpected and prompt response to repeated calls by parliament, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) said in a statement that a special task force has been appointed to finalise a plan that has been prepared by the CSC's board for recruiting and appointing employees for government service in 1993, 1994 and 1995.

The announcement, made by Deputy Premier and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi in his capacity as CSC President, said that the task force has been given a two-week mandate to approve or reject the plan which has to go to the cabinet before it is endorsed.

Numerous deputies in speeches during the debate over the 1993



Thouqan Al Hindawi

fiscal budget, demanded that the government fairly distribute government posts. Some even called for investigations into appointments made in the past year which they said had not been awarded fairly.

CSC Director Abdullah Ulayan said that the CSC plan takes into account the chronological graduation of applicants, social and humanitarian considerations as well as the eligibility for the post.

He said to ensure the success of the plan, the newly formed administrative inspection and control bureau will be involved in supervising its implementation.

In addition, Mr. Ulayan noted, consideration for appointment should also be given to those with special and rare skills required for certain jobs; applicants with special humanitarian and social needs and those who support martyrs families, sons and daughters of remote villagers, members from poor families and handicapped persons depending on the nature of the job they fill. He said these considerations will be taken into account in addition to the educational standard of each candidate.

## Icelandic minister arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iceland's Minister of Communications Halldor Blondal arrived in Amman Wednesday for a four-day visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and other government leaders including the ministers of tourism and posts and communications.

Mr. Blondal who arrived here from Egypt is expected to discuss and conclude an agreement on tourism between Iceland and Jordan catering to the exchange of visits by tourist groups and art exhibitions, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Blondal and his party are expected to discuss the question of tariffs for travel between Jordan and Iceland and a potential agreement between Royal Jorda-

nian (RJ) and Iceland Air is expected during the visit, according to Mr. Atallah who was at the airport along with Minister of Labour and Acting Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabarti.

Mr. Blondal, who is accompanied by communications and civil aviation officials will also tour archaeological sites including the Dead Sea, Petra and Madaba.

Jordan and Iceland established diplomatic ties in 1990 in the wake of a visit to Iceland by His Majesty King Hussein. According to Mr. Atallah, tourists from Iceland and other Scandinavian countries declined in the past year due to the economic recession in Europe. It is hoped that the visit will encourage more tourists to visit the Kingdom.



On the rise: Four floor houses to be built again

## Amman to rise to four floors

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government endorsed Tuesday a law which allows people to build four-storey buildings rather than three as has been the case since 1985.

The decision, taken by the Cabinet at Tuesday's session was based on recommendations by a special ministerial committee which conducted an in-depth study of construction and town planning in Amman.

Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) President Husni Abu Ghaida told the Jordan Times that since the creation of the Greater Amman region in 1985, citizens were not allowed to build blocks consisting of more than three floors in addition to a roof flat.

Under the new regulations each apartment building should have parking, either underground or on the grounds of the building. Mr. Abu Ghaida said that the regulations will allow more peo-

ple to live in the same building and in the long run reduce the cost of construction and other services. He said that the government has taken into account social and agricultural considerations as well. By allowing people in Amman to have a fourth floor the chronic housing problem will be dealt with reducing the encroachment of homes and buildings on useful agricultural land. The new law will go into force once it has been published in the official state gazette.

## Jordanian mosaics on display at Sotheby's

A collection of 5th-6th century mosaics from Jordan went on display at Sotheby's in London, Monday. The works are noteworthy for two reasons: They show a very high level of artistic sophistication, often drawing on Greco-Roman traditions as well as biblical scripture. And they demonstrate tolerance and mutually beneficial coexistence that characterized Christian-Muslim relations in the ancient Middle East.

The mosaics of Jordan exhibition opened under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor who was received by the Earl of Gowrie, and Chairman of Sotheby's, Professor John Carswell. The Queen was given a tour of the works.

The themes of the exhibition were highlighted by the pre-opening remarks to the press by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Yanal Hikmat. He noted that mosaics were a popular form of floor covering in public and private buildings in Jordan for nearly one thousand years, from the late classical to the early Islamic eras (1st century BC to 8th century AD). One of the themes that dominates mosaic art in the region, is the continuity of craftsmanship and artistic symbolism — despite the successive changes in religions and ideologies during the Hellenistic, Roman, Nabataean, Byzantine and Islamic eras.

The best preserved and most elaborate pieces on display come from Byzantine churches of the 6th and 7th centuries, including several striking representations of walled cities, religious symbols, and people in everyday activities such as farming and livestocking.

The exhibition of over 45 mosaic panels also includes a small number of striking traditional Jordanian folk dresses.

Mr. Hikmat suggested that the richness of the folk costumes should be seen to reflect the reality of a culture that has developed and matured on the same land for thousands of years. He said the folk dresses symbolise "the human drama and the communal identity that are embedded deep in our land and in our human consciousness."

The minister also noted that several important Christian churches



Ancient mosaics on display

ches with elaborate mosaic floors date to the early Islamic era in the 8th century, when a small but relatively prosperous Christian community lived in the predominantly Islamic religious culture of Jordan.

"These mosaics tell a tale of

cultural pluralism," Mr. Hikmat said, "of peoples of different religions and cultures living side-by-side in tolerance and mutual gain, such as Nabataeans and Romans in the 1st century or Christians and Muslims in the 7th and 8th centuries."

## Industry and trade official meets Australian ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Marwan Awad met Wednesday with the Australian ambassador in Amman Jonathan Sheppard and discussed with him economic relations between Jordan and Australia and means to enhance them. Mr. Awad and Mr. Sheppard also discussed topics listed on the agenda of the joint Jordanian-Australian Committee which is due to meet Feb. 20 in Australia. The meeting will be co-chaired by the ministers of industry and trade in the two countries.

## Supply policies reviewed

By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The absence of a clear supply policy and inadequacies of the supply card system were the main issues discussed Wednesday at a one-day seminar on supply policies in Jordan held at the Chamber of Industry.

"The ministry's supply policy relies heavily on the provision of basic food products with adequate quantities and reasonable prices," said Mohammad Al Saqqaf, Minister of Supply in his opening speech. "At present, Jordan imports all of its needs of sugar and rice, and up to 90 per cent of its needs of wheat and lentils."

The minister pointed out that the ministry has always sought to encourage local production of cereals with the cooperation of all other ministries and concerned authorities. However, he maintained that the considerable lack of water resources in Jordan renders it difficult to initiate large agricultural projects to meet the needs of the country. "It is true that the national, social and economic security can not be achieved without food security, (however), we cannot isolate ourselves from the rest of the world where other considerations and interests play a major role," the minister said. "We hope that the day would come when we no longer need to import these basic products."

In a joint working paper from the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Industry, the Bakers' Association and the Jordan Traders Association, a criticism was directed at the numerous laws and legislations promulgated in



Mohammad Obeidat and Mohammad Al Saqqaf at the seminar

the 1970's which impose restrictions on commercial activity. "A great number of regulations have limited the activity of the private sector in the commercial domain," states the paper. "While the main objective behind many institutions set up by the government was to simply organize and supervise the implementation of the supply policy, these institutions have turned out to be the primary rival to private commercial activities. Moreover, concerned authorities are monopolising the import and the sales of most of the supply commodities."

In a study carried out by Dr. Mohammad Obeidat, president of the Jordan Consumers Society, figures show that the majority of those questioned are not satisfied

with the current Supplying Card and Coupons Systems (SCCS). The study, which relied on the analysis of about 3,000 women selected from different parts in the Kingdom and aimed at evaluating the SCCS, reflected the people's desire to develop the system by increasing the allocation of subsidies to needy families in particular and adding new products to it. While a large majority of those questioned voiced satisfaction over the efficient distribution system, some indicated it does not attribute particular attention to the differences that exist between people living in the cities and those who live in rural areas. In the city, there is a high demand for milk while in the rural area demand would grow stronger for sugar.



Tourist rescued: British tourist Susanne Brandley, Wednesday fell off a mountain she was climbing in Wadi Rum. A Jordanian Air Force helicopter crew, after providing first aid, trans-

ported her to Al Hussein Medical Centre where medical examination showed that Ms. Brandley had suffered a fractured lumbar vertebra. Her condition, according to doctors, is satisfactory.

## Somalis

(Continued from page 1)

have more mobility — helicopters for example, some of which are just arriving this week — you'll find the activities to round up the heavy weapons will increase in intensity and expand in the countryside as well as Mogadishu," Mr. Oakley said.

Meanwhile U.S. troops shot and fatally wounded a Somali gunman outside Mogadishu just hours after killing another gunman in the capital.

A U.S. military spokesman, Air Force Captain Joe Davis, said a Marine reconnaissance team came under fire after dark on Tuesday in the town of Afgoi, 40 kilometres west of the Somali capital.

"The Marines returned fire and hit one individual," Capt. Davis said. He added that the man died while being taken to Mogadishu for medical treatment.

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TO ANNOUNCE THE RE-OPENING OF

THE GALLERY

HOTEL JORDAN INTERCONTINENTAL

AMMAN'S FOREMOST INDEPENDENT GALLERY WISHES ITS MANY FRIENDS OVER THE YEARS THE BEST FOR 1993.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

## EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition entitled "Latin Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Jordanian artist Salam Kanaan at Riwaq Al Balqa Gallery for fine arts, Al Fuhais City.

## FILM

- Clint Eastwood's 1971 film "Dirty Harry" at the American Centre at 5 p.m. (143 min. certificate 18).



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

جورنال تيمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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## Pleasant surprise, huge task ahead

GIVEN THE fact that the draft budget presented to Parliament by the government, according to most economic pundits, was the best for the Kingdom in decades, it was a foregone conclusion that it would be endorsed. The fierce criticism that deputy after deputy levelled against the government, in the form of observations on the draft law along with demands for better infrastructure and services for their constituencies, was also expected in what could possibly be an election year.

But what came as a pleasant surprise was the fact that 58 of the 69 deputies who attended the voting session Wednesday opted to cast their lot in favour of the draft budget; pleasant because we did not have ridiculous amendments to what has all the hallmarks of a very healthy budget as was presented to the House and surprise because despite everything, 84 per cent of the voting deputies endorsed it. And, of course, it was very clear that only a handful of our elected representatives had actually applied their brains to analysing the pros and cons of the budget and its various provisions — as was evident from some of the completely off-the-mark speeches and observations that we heard in the domed chamber over the past four days.

Also in the bargain is a pledge by the government to increase the salaries of civil service employees by JD 20 a month. It may not be much, what with the spiralling cost of living, but then that was what could be expected under the difficult circumstances that our country is passing through. What we have now — subject of course to Upper House endorsement — is a clear blueprint for concerted action to address our economic problems. But that does not mean that the executive authority can continue business as usual, brushing aside some of the pressing issues which cannot brook any delay in being resolved.

Notwithstanding the political and personal motivations behind the harsh words that many deputies voiced against the government during the debate of the draft budget in the House, there were several strong and valid points that some of them raised. The government cannot afford to overlook them. The observations represented real problems which demand urgent attention. Granted, some of the problems that the government faces in administrative reform and structural adjustments have such deep roots in our social and economic life that it would take Herculean efforts and draconian measures to eliminate them. But then, this is the order of the day, particularly in a society like ours which is undergoing a revolutionary change towards strong democratic ways of life and increased self-reliance.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE U.N. Secretary-General's intention of sending yet another envoy to the Middle East to discuss the question of the evictees came under scrutiny by Al Ra'i Arabic daily which voiced its criticism of the move. None of the numerous resolutions issued by the United Nations concerning the Middle East issue and the Palestine problem has ever been implemented; and there is no chance for resolution 799 to be carried out given the indifferent attitude shown by the major powers and the United Nations, itself, the paper noted. The U.N. Secretary General has announced that he would be sending another envoy to talk to the Israelis, but he... "ious actions against Israel's intransigence and its disregard of Resolution 799, it added. The paper said that the new envoy is going to listen to another big "no" from the Israeli government which will abort the U.N. quest to repatriate the 415 Palestinian evictees. No one in New York, Washington, Paris and London, or even Peking or Moscow is interested in issuing a threat to the Israelis demanding that they return the Palestinians, but they are all interested in seeking sanctions against the Israelis, added the daily. Let us just wait for the U.N. envoy and let us watch the Israelis dealing another blow to the U.N. credibility, continued the daily. It said that the United Nations was a long experience with the Israelis and it has become accustomed to Israel's rejection of the international community's decision. It said the coming rebuff will show Israel's total contempt of the international legitimacy.

A COLUMNIST IN Al Ra'i Arabic daily criticised Parliament members for giving long and tedious speeches while discussing the draft budget for the new year. Most of the speeches sounded alike and some of them were identical, therefore, one wonders if the deputies themselves do not get bored by such speeches, said Mohammad Kharroub. The writer said that with the voting on the budget, the public gets some respite from the long and tedious speeches which were nearly identical to those delivered over the past four years. The deputies tried in their speeches to present the requests and demands of their constituencies to the government, but the government can by no means respond to them because of the financial constraints, said the writer. For his part, the finance minister defended the government's financial policy for the new budget, giving a comprehensive assessment of the whole economic situation which is being influenced by regional and international developments as well as the domestic situation, said the writer. Groups of deputies could have authorised one member to speak on their behalf and save the listeners and readers a lot of trouble, added the writer. He noted that since most of the deputies will be running for the coming elections one can easily sense the deputies' desire to present their statements as part of their election campaign.

## Front reaffirms commitment to Islamic action, ideology

By Dr. Fayez Al Rabie

BEFORE I tackle questions related to the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and what has been reported about the outcome of its first meeting and the subsequent resignations of those who we deeply respect, I find it imperative to pave the ground for this subject by presenting here a number of points:

1. On the ideological level: We still complain of our failure to reach a comprehensive political concept which, despite divergent views, would by no means negatively influence the unity among the members. It is a fact that the existence of factions within the political parties is not recognised or accepted within the Islamic framework. While we demand freedom, based on values and on divine and human criteria, and seek to establish human rights, we find ourselves moving in the opposite direction. We should be the first in the community to call for the establishment of human values that can benefit everyone. Instead of striving hard to put our candidates in the forefront at the helm, we should present our ideology and have the persons who hold this ideology at the helm. Indeed, we should present new concepts for cooperation with all those wishing to work towards serving the cause of Islam, from the bottom upwards.

2. On the educational level: Many among us still have a narrow-minded mentality, which characterises some political parties too. But we all realise the fact that to win the masses over to our side we should avoid narrow-mindedness.

If matters related to organising the party fall into the category of means or "tools," then organising it should be a process under constant development, in accordance with priorities. We have reaffirmed this concept over and over again, noting that we should differentiate between the means and the objectives. We should emphasise again here that allowing the organisational procedure to become a target in itself will be at the expense of flexibility and change.

3. On the transformational level:

Given the fact that the principles of Islam are something fixed and established, we should realise that the application of Islam assumes a variety of methods;

this makes it incumbent upon us to enter into the era of real Islam.

Realising that peaceful means always take longer, we should also stress that it is always better to follow them than to resort to force. As a matter of fact, not a single armed Islamic movement directed against a ruling power has yet proved to be successful. Therefore, one should continue two totally contradictory strategies.

The major challenge facing us now is how to manage a dialogue among us, as Muslims, and how to conduct a dialogue with the others.

A group within the Islamic movement might be committed to carrying out certain tasks in the course of serving the Islamic movement's causes and by so doing, this group could present itself as fanatics who do not give any regard to the rest of the Muslims in the community. Concepts should be conveyed from persons to the whole community, through speech and through writing, so that they have deep effects on the ummah as a whole.

After this introduction, I would like to shed light on the following points:

1. Some of those who entered the IAF do not believe in this type of work and therefore they ought not to have involved themselves in the party in the first place because they realise they will be working with people with whom they do not see eye-to-eye.

2. Independent Islamists should have been allowed to win in elections as we do not want our people but rather our ideology and ideas to reach the public.

3. Leadership does not always mean sitting at the forefront, neither do we believe that speeches should be confined to one person only.

4. Thousands of Muslims in Jordan believe in Islamic action but they are not anxious to be elected as leaders if they enter the party. Neither are they afraid of expanding the base of Islamic action, so that "it" covers the majority of people; because they are not afraid of losing their positions.

The writer, a leading member of Islamic Action Front, has been recently appointed ambassador to the Foreign Ministry. The article is translated from the Arabic daily Al Ra'i.

## To Sarajevo, by way of Riyadh

By Robert Fisk

A group of American officials turned up at the Croatian port of Ploce, a few miles from the Bosnian border, earlier this month. They wanted to talk to the harbour master. They wanted to know how many ships could be berthed at the Ploce quays in any one day. How many ships could be turned round in a day? How big were the railyards? It did not take the harbour authorities long to guess why their unexpected visitors had arrived here, within sight of the Bosnian mountains. If the marines are going to be sent into the Balkans, Ploce will be their point of disembarkation, the road from the railyards at Metkovic their first line of advance towards Sarajevo.

John Major may be fearful of British casualties in Bosnia; his defence secretary — using Wehrmacht statistics to dismiss any idea of an offensive against Serbian forces — may remind one of the timidity of Thirties appeasers; but already the U.N. role in the Balkans is undergoing a series of subtle changes in preparation for possible military action. At least two U.S. officers are now part of the new U.N. headquarters outside Sarajevo, where the largest armoured force is no longer Serbian but British. The so-called "Bosnia-Herzegovina Command" of the international army at Kisljak includes U.S., British, Danish, French, Norwegian and Canadian officers in what looks suspiciously like a miniature version of the old NATO Northern Command.

It is, in effect, a rival U.N. force in the Balkans. Officially, it is part of the same, discredited U.N. protection force that has performed so incompetently over the past 18 months. But in Kisljak the national flags are larger than the emblems normally displayed by U.N. personnel; the Union Jack is larger, the U.N. flag smaller than usual. British officers can even be heard talking of the British protection force rather than the U.N. protection force.

Nor is this surprising. British U.N. officers have quietly instituted military logistics "tail" far larger than necessary for the 2,400 British troops in Bosnia; they could now cope with the immediate arrival of a further 5,000 British soldiers, although artillery and helicopter support would have to be provided for any offensive action. Spanish legion troops have now secured the main highway from the coast through Mostar towards Sarajevo. It is really a surprise that the U.S. marines in Mogadishu have been telling reporters that they all expect to move on to Bosnia.

Somalia is more than just a test case. Military involvement of any

kind — however ostentatiously peaceful its intentions — bestows influence as well as power upon the foreign nations committing troops to the operation. Thus feeding the hungry in Somalia has given the United States military bases adjacent to Kenya, whose election crisis is growing daily more serious and scarcely 500 miles from Sudan, whose Islamic leadership is already being demonised by the West.

Saudi Arabia, Washington's policeman in the Gulf, has moved its own troops into Somalia — one of their senior officials in Mogadishu is a close adviser to Prince Bandar, the Saudi ambassador to Washington — while at the same time demanding western action in Bosnia.

Amid the fears and sensitivities expressed by western statesmen over the Balkans, little attention has been paid to Saudi Arabia's role in Bosnia. Saudi television is now broadcasting 24-hour-a-day news reports of the horrors endured by Bosnia's Muslims. Almost \$50m worth of aid for refugees has come from King Fahd alone. And it was the Saudis who hosted this month's Islamic conference in Jeddah that demanded western action to save the Muslims of Bosnia. If no such help was forthcoming, the conference decided, then Saudi Arabia and its Islamic allies would send weapons to the Bosnians.

No one noticed the connection between this warning and the U.N.'s subsequent threat of a "no-fly" zone over Bosnia, to come into effect in mid-January — the very date the Saudis had set in their ultimatum. For it would be ridiculous to suppose that the Saudis did not act in concert with their American allies.

All across the Muslim states of the former Soviet Union, in Afghanistan and now in Somalia, too, Saudi largesse is being dispensed in an attempt to diminish Iranian influence. Riyadh and Tehran are fighting it out with the help of their proxy militias in the streets of Kabul. And the Saudis, with America's support, are now determined to prevent the Muslim refugees of Bosnia falling into Iran's hands.

Iranian aid and guns have certainly been arriving in the former Yugoslavia. Iranian ammunition was carried by Bosnian Muslim guerrillas who penetrated Serbian Krajina in September. In Bosnia itself, 147 members of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah militia from Beirut have now arrived to provide arms and guerrilla training to Muslim fighters. Several dozen militiamen from the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli have travelled to Bosnia for the same reason. Algerian, Kuwaiti and

Saudi fighters have turned up near Travnik and — although not in the huge numbers that the Serbs claim — have reestablished some important links with their Bosnian Muslim hosts.

Dozens of Bosnian Muslims, it transpires, fought with the mujahedeen in Afghanistan. Their comrades were those same Algerians and Kuwaitis who have now come to Bosnia. "Afghanistan was our school," one Bosnian Muslim officer told me in Travnik. "Instead of fighting the Communist Russians outside Kabul, we are now fighting the Communist Chetniks (Serbs) outside Travnik. Even their tanks are the same. In Afghanistan, we hit the T-55s in the mountains. Here, we hit T-55s in the mountains."

"There would be costs to an American-led war in the Balkans. The European Community would have to reassess its aspirations. If America had to bail Europe out of Bosnia, Europe would be in no position to challenge American influence on this side of the Atlantic. America's supremacy in Europe would be unchallenged."

Thus has the experience of Afghanistan brought together a small but dedicated army of Muslims in Bosnia. And as the Balkan war continues — and perhaps spreads to include Kosovo and Albania — so Saudi Arabia will try to extend its control over the fighters. Islamic resistance in the former Yugoslavia is one thing, Islamic revolution quite another. It will be of no comfort to the Saudis to know that one of their citizens has just been blowing up Serbian tanks near Tarcin with a new shoulder-fired missile launcher; another veteran of Afghanistan, he opposes the monarchy in Riyadh on the grounds that they are infidels.

Rescuing the Muslims of Bosnia is therefore a political as well as a humanitarian task for Saudi Arabia, and one that may have to be accomplished with western fire-power, just as Kuwait had to be liberated by western tanks and aircraft. The equation is familiar: allied ground troops and American air cover. Saudi funds could be used to support such a mission, just as they were in the Gulf. While theoretically undertaken by the U.N. protection force, the operation would be long to NATO troops, under-

taken with the intention of setting up a U.N. protectorate in Bosnia.

It would be impossible to claim afterwards that this had been a "clean" war. While allied troops were confronting the Serbs, Serbia's Croatian enemies would be using such an offensive to perform their own acts of ethnic cleansing against both Serbs and probably Muslims, too. Even when the first British troops were arriving in Bosnia this autumn, the Croats hurried the Muslim inhabitants out of Prozor, a disgrace that an outnumbered British advance party witnessed from a distance but could do nothing to prevent. If Croatian militiamen massacred Serbian villagers, the West would be held to blame.

Yet it is important to remember that the West escaped censure when more than a hundred Palestinians were tortured and slaughtered in liberated Kuwait and when several hundred thousand Palestinians were expelled from the country — an act of ethnic cleansing that did not trouble proponents of the "New World Order."

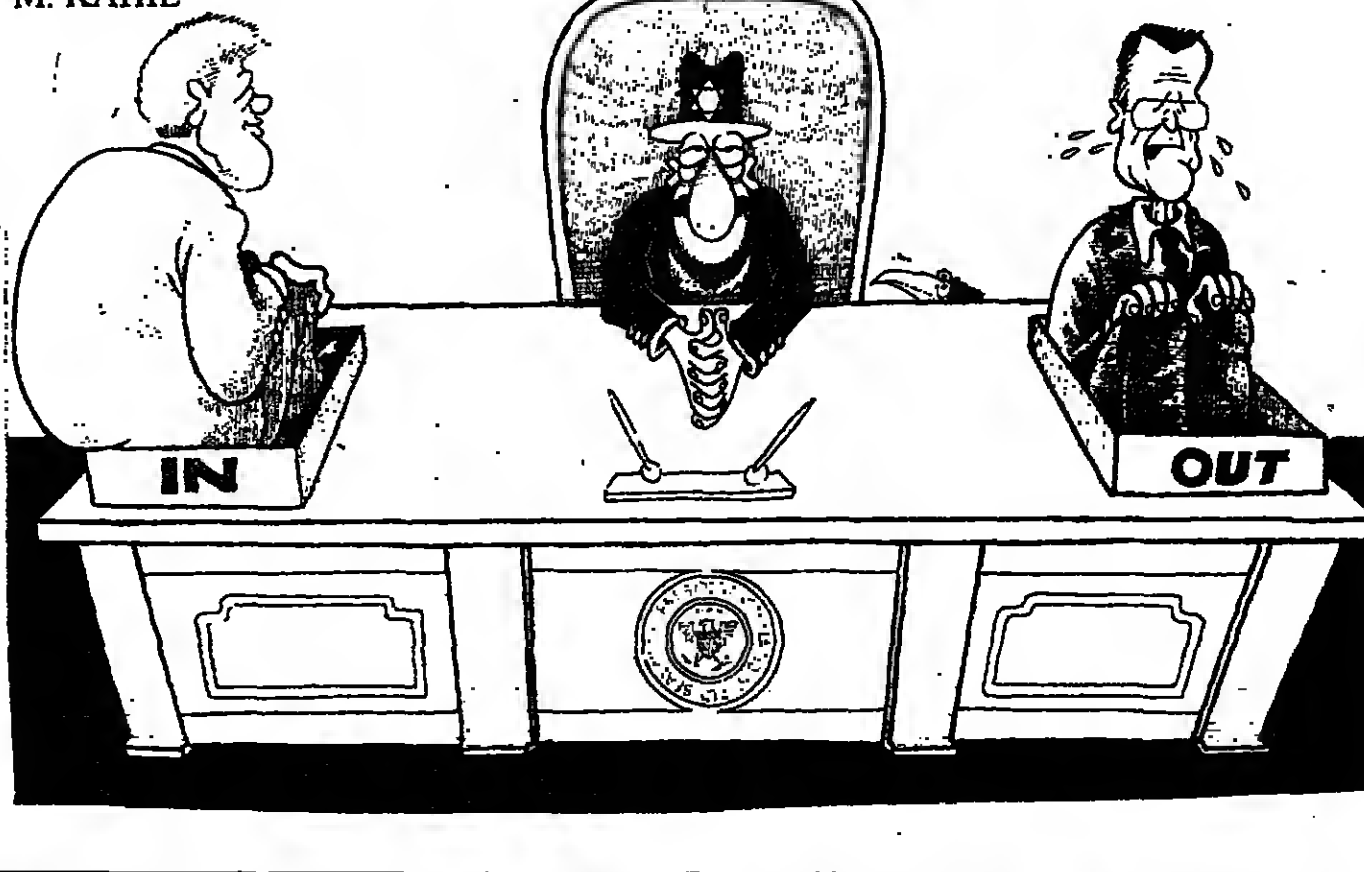
There would be other costs to an American-led war in the Balkans. The European Community would have to reassess its aspirations. If America had to bail Europe out in Bosnia, Europe would be in no position to challenge American influence on this side of the Atlantic. There could be no more rows over GATT, and few claims from the ancient countries of Europe that they do not need America's moral or military strength. America's supremacy in Europe would be unchallenged; Washington would hold more power in the continent than ever before.

But if Europe cannot control the Balkans, then America will have to do so. Without American ground troops, the U.N. has proved to be a disaster in what used to be Yugoslavia. The EC observers — most of them military intelligence officers — have little influence over the horrors of Bosnia. The EC itself has managed to push Macedonia towards war because one of its members, Greece, refuses to accept the country's name. Repeatedly over the past six months, European leaders have sounded like the statesmen of the mid-Thirties, insisting that there must be no more war — not because they have the will to prevent it but because they lack the courage to do so.

Which is why America will come to the Balkans. Meanwhile, watch the Saudis: observe the activities of the so-called Bosnia-Herzegovina Command of the United Nations; remember Somalia. We may not have long to wait — The Independent.

## Remodelling Israel-U.S. ties

M. KAHIL



began casting around for a new rationale.

After the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the seining-in of the new Reagan administration in the early '80s, Jerusalem believed it had found a new rationale that would highlight an old cold war reality.

While people within the Reagan administration, such as then Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, doubted Israel's military significance in this context, the Reagan administration and Israel began a "strategic relationship." Led by such unsung people as Steve Rosen, a lobbyist for American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Pentagon doubts began to thaw

and a relationship between the U.S. and Israeli military establishments began to take hold — and cooperation is still growing far beyond public awareness.

However, alongside the cooperation, problems in the U.S.-Israel relationship began to intensify in the last few years. With the demise of the Soviet Union, differences grew between the Bush and Shamir governments over loan guarantees and American bureaucratic suspicions that Israel was transferring U.S. high-technology to third countries without permission.

Israel thereupon started casting around again for a new basis for the relationship. Some politicians

began speaking about how Israel would join the U.S. in tempering Islamic fundamentalism. However, beyond showing how Israel could carry out a few agricultural development projects with the U.S. in Central Asia, no evidence was given on how Israel would help stem the tide against Islamic fundamentalism.

U.S. officials would say — and the new Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would subsequently tell visitors — that the best thing Israel could do to halt Islamic fundamentalism would be to make peace with its Arab neighbours and Palestinians. If peace is good for Israelis and Arabs, it will be good for the region.

Mr. Rabin is not as under-

standing when it comes to the role of organised American Jews in American politics, the Jaffee report indicated. When Mr. Rabin voiced his famous exhortation at AIPAC last August for meddling with the Bush administration, the report suggests that Mr. Rabin missed this point.

The Jaffee study views the American Jewish community as the essential foundation for the entire U.S.-Israel relationship. It will be critical for AIPAC to continue its grass-roots education effort to maintain broad public support and assistance for Israel.

The outreach effort will have to include stronger inroads in the burgeoning Hispanic community

as well. Maintaining American public support and that of over 100 new congressmen will be difficult since the U.S. is turning inward and American public sympathies have changed.

The report notes that an ongoing study by the Maritz and Kiley polling company shows that, at the start of the initiative, Americans sympathised with Israel more than the Palestinians by a rate of 55-22. As of this past May, the margin sharply narrowed to a startling 36-32.

However, the political involvement of American Jewish activists remains stronger for Israel than critics charge. According to U.S. Federal Election Commission returns, American Jewish support for Political Action Committees (PACs) keeps growing. In 1978, three PACs raised \$43,000 for 47 congressional candidates. By 1990, 95 PACs had sprung up providing \$5m. to 402 candidates contesting Congress's 535 races. In the same year, Arab PACs provided a paltry \$28,000.

The Jaffee report concludes with an operational recommendation for the prime minister's office — which makes final decisions on U.S.-Israel relations — to become more attuned to the changing American reality. It calls for the establishment of an inter-agency review group that would bring together officials across the bureaucracy dealing with U.S. affairs (Foreign Ministry, Defence Ministry, Israeli army's Military Intelligence) and take a more integrated approach in gathering information and analysing it for the premier and most senior policymakers.

This could be an important lesson for a country like Israel. The same fiefdom-style approach that characterises the way that politicians run their separate ministries has filtered down. The net effect is a fragmented bureaucracy that too often sees the whole as being far less than the sum of its parts and eschews an inter-agency "loop" of officials to work on a common problem.



## Journalists on the frontline

By Partha S. Banerjee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — You can't be sure of finding bread in Sarajevo, but you can get your morning newspaper. It is an 8-page daily in tabloid format called *Oslobodenje*, brought out by 70 indefatigable newsmen working on the frontlines of journalism.

"We work out of an atomic bomb shelter," said Gordana Knezevic, the paper's chief of correspondents, during a recent visit to the United States. "And we use some of the most unusual improvisa-

tions you can imagine in journalism," working sometimes without telephones, without wire services, typing out stories in candlelight, bringing out the paper after a night of fire-fighting. Ms. Knezevic — along with the paper's editor-in-chief Kemal Kurspahic — was in America to receive Courage in Journalism awards from the International Women's Media Foundation based in Alexandria near Washington. "Courage, perhaps, but it was a sense of responsibility that compelled us to continue publishing the newspaper," explained Mr.

Kurspahic. "Responsibility not only to our readers, but also to the tradition of the paper. *Oslobodenje* means 'liberation'; it was launched in 1943 by anti-fascist partisans during World War II and now it is as if the name 'Liberation' has acquired a new meaning. We cannot imagine stopping the paper's publication. Besides, correspondents from all over the world are risking their lives to report out of Sarajevo. How could we chicken out?"

"For me," added Ms. Knezevic, "I thought there was no choice. I was the paper's Middle East correspondent for four years till 1991 — covering the fighting in Lebanon, the coup in Khartoum. How could I run away from the war at home?" The mother of three children, Ms. Knezevic, 42, is a Serb married to a Muslim. "I managed to send two of my children out of the country. The third, a son aged 13, stays with us in Sarajevo."

The decision not to abandon *Oslobodenje*, come what may, was taken by Ms. Knezevic and other journalists on April 10, less than a week after Bosnia-Herzegovina was attacked by the Serbs. That day, editor-in-chief Kurspahic summoned a meeting of his staff and explained the odds they faced. He offered to help women employees with children to leave the city if they so wished. Those that stay, he said, would have to "produce a story a day, but I can't guarantee that you will stay alive."

The grim warning was prompted by the death of colleague Krasimir Smajlovic, killed on April 9 as Serbian paramilitary troops crossed the Drina River into Bosnia. Mr. Smajlovic was the war's first journalist casualty. "The day before he was killed," recalled Mr. Kurspahic, "he filed three stories on the Serb advance from Zvornik (150

kilometres from Sarajevo). Next morning, the troops shot him in his office, dragged his body out and buried him in a mass grave."

An *Oslobodenje* photographer has since been killed, four journalists are missing and 20 have been wounded. "I told the staff (during the April 10 meeting) that anyone who wanted to leave could do so... Nobody, except some mothers with children accepted that offer, but many reporters in the outlying districts have been unable to work since the Serbs overran their areas." One factor that helped the daily survive was the vast resources and infrastructure of the newspaper group that owned it. Government-owned during the Communist regime, the group printed not only *Oslobodenje* but also several magazines, and even books. It was equipped with a modern printing press and was well stocked with newsprint. To save on paper, Mr. Kurspahic has cut print runs from around 60,000 to about 11,000, and the number of pages was reduced from 20 to eight. Paper normally used for books sometimes becomes newsprint, but Mr. Kurspahic is hopeful that some European news organisations will help with supplies. Some shipments of newsprint from France, Slovenia and Austria are apparently already on the way to Sarajevo.

### A great triumph

More worrisome than newsprint shortages is the daily shelling from Serbian tanks and artillery positions that almost razed the paper's offices. After some of the worst attacks on May 14, it was decided to run the paper on 7-day shifts: A group of about 10 journalists stays in the office, which is located near the suburb of Ilidza in a particularly vulnerable area, for a whole week, working,

eating and sleeping on the premises until they are relieved by the next shift. And downtown, near the government buildings, the paper rented an office to operate a news bureau under Ms. Knezevic. Often, though, the bureau's telephone lines go dead, forcing one of the journalists to collect the typed-out news stories and risk a midnight drive to the main office amidst sniper fire.

One of the paper's greatest triumphs was its publication on June 21, after a night of rampaging fire that engulfed the office. A week earlier, the Serb militia had mounted a major attack on the newspaper building, firing machine guns, mortars, even tank missiles. "I was then in the building," recalls Mr. Kurspahic. "A tank had its barrel pointed at us, just 150 metres away. They fired seven missiles. When the missiles hit the building the air was rent with an eerie sound, like the scream of a cat."

On the evening of June 20, following continued shelling, the building was set ablaze. With no functioning fire brigade in the city, it was left to the journalists and other newspaper employees to fight the blaze. They put the fire out by 6 a.m., and by 6:05 the presses began to roll. At 8 a.m. the paper was out on the streets. "Nobody had expected the paper would be printed that day," said Mr. Kurspahic. "But there it was. Sarajevo TV called it the greatest victory yet against the aggressors."

"I think one of our important strengths is the ethnic mix of the staff," observed Ms. Knezevic. "We have Muslims, Serbs and Croats in much the same proportion as in Sarajevo." Editor Kurspahic, 46, is a Muslim (married to a Serb) while one of the chief columnists is a Croat. But despite their diversity and understanding of



Under rocket fire, Gordana Knezevic and Kemal Kurspahic produce an 8 page daily newspaper called "Oslobodenje" (Liberation) in war-torn Sarajevo.

the region, the journalists are as puzzled as any outsider about the origins of the ethnic conflagration. "I think it is a result of nationalist propaganda belted out relentlessly by the Belgrade regime," Mr. Kurspahic ventured. "They floated the idea of Greater Serbia and that Serbs outside Serbia were endangered."

"In my opinion, it is wrong to dig for historic reasons for this communal battle," said Ms. Knezevic. "One should never look for such reasons in the Balkans. This is not an ethnic war as it is usually pictured. This is simply an aggression against civilians... And, of course, there was this Messianic propaganda so that some Serbs actually came to believe that it was somehow special to be a Serb. They were caught up with the idea of Greater Serbia, they were poisoned by the idea that all others should be under their control."

"And once this campaign came to be connected to the army," continued Ms.

Knezevic, "it became explosive. Initially it was like an extreme right fringe party but when the army came to their side, it became a dangerous mixture... My own private explanation to this sudden growth of rightist nationalism is that it filled the vacuum left by communism. When communism ceased to exist, many people felt a strong urge for a collective belonging elsewhere and the nationalists in all parts of the former Yugoslavia gave them that opportunity. We could survive a bit of Slovenian nationalism, we could survive a bit of Croatian nationalism, but we couldn't survive Serb nationalism, as the Serbs were the biggest community in the country. When the biggest community goes mad, nobody can survive."

Ms. Knezevic does not think Bosnia-Herzegovina will survive the Serbian onslaught without international help. "I see no hope unless these fascist forces are able even for a day to get conquered," she says. Mr. Kurspahic echoes much the

same sentiment. "Bosnia does not need a massive military intervention," he said. "All that is required are a few bombs aimed at the well-marked Serb artillery positions atop the hills. Or at the very least, lifting the international arms embargo on Bosnia. We should have the right to defend our land." Bosnia is in such a desperate state, it would "accept aid from the devil, whoever he might be," said Ms. Knezevic. But there can't be any compromise with the Bosnian Serbs. "They are terrorists," she said.

Ms. Knezevic was grateful and a little surprised at the honour bestowed on her and the newspaper's trip to America, but she was anxious to get back to Bosnia. "I don't know what's happening there, who has been killed, where they are attacking. The anxiety is simply too much. It is the anxiety of a battle-hardened soldier, unless these fascist forces are able even for a day to get conquered," she says. Mr. Kurspahic echoes much the



While bread is hard to come by, Sarajevo residents can count on finding their daily newspaper

## Veiled medical students take case to Kuwaiti parliament

By Jonathan Wright  
Reuters

KUWAIT — A chronic row over two Kuwaiti women medical students who insist on wearing gloves and covering their faces has reached the highest debating chamber in the land.

The newly elected parliament discussed their case at length last month but the problem will still not go away.

The dispute pits doctrinaire Muslims, bent on uprooting any semblance of un-Islamic activity, against Western-educated moderates who say their opponents are trying to make political capital out of something essential-

ly technical. Committees have met, reports have come out and just about everyone has had his say.

But the two students remain in limbo. The Disciplinary Committee at Kuwait University is hesitant to dismiss them, while the dean of the medical faculty, Hilal Al Sayer, refuses to let them do clinical work in hospital wards.

The hardliners, vocal in parliament and in the press, say the medical faculty should let them resume their studies immediately — with their veils and gloves on.

Member of Parliament Khaled Al Idwa, a bearded

firebrand, went even further. "The university is full of extreme secularists prepared to attack Islam," he said. "I demand the minister of education purge the university of this moral and intellectual pollution."

Ahmad Baqer, another member of parliament, said the arguments against the students were feeble and trivial. He said it was normal for medical personnel to wear face masks.

The students' union, which backs the women, also produced a lengthy report attempting to show that a veiled woman could practice as a doctor with as much success as anyone else.

It did concede that the

students may have to take their gloves off from time to time, to handle bacterial cultures for example, but it found no case where they need bare their faces.

Mr. Sayer says all these arguments miss the point.

"The doctor-patient relationship is a very complicated one. If you want a patient to give you a detailed history of himself without seeing your face, then it's not going to work," he told Reuters in an interview.

"Half your diagnostic tools are based on gaining the confidence of the patient so he feels relieved when he sees your face... You need all your senses," he added.

The dean said the university should have dismissed the two students long ago, before he banned them from the clinical practice two months ago, because they had repeatedly violated longstanding university regulations on dress.

"But I did not get any backing from the university," he said. "It should have been solved on the university level but these guys (in parliament) are capitalising on it."

Minister of Education Ahmad Rubai has tried to calm frayed tempers with a promise to meet one of the women, along with the Minister of Islamic affairs, and come to an amicable settlement.

"Please don't politicise the issue," he told parliament. "It's not a case of supporters of Sharia (Islamic Law) against opponents. The Sharia is out on either side so let's try to find a rational solution."

A Fatwa (Sharia judgement) by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs said that if a woman chose to cover her face and hands no one should force her to expose them except for some pressing reason, for example to prove her identity.

The university's own legal committee has ruled generally in favour of the dean. It said no personal freedom was absolute.

## In Lapp tradition, fearsome reindeer protected the universe

By Matti Huuhtanen

The Associated Press  
HELSINKI — To modern children, the image of reindeer flashing across the sky means all the good things of Christmas. To the ancient Lapps, it meant fear, awe, maybe even the end of the world.

When Lapp wise men spoke of reindeer in the stars, it was not a tale of comfort and joy, or Santa the jolly elf, but of a race against doomsday.

Lapp storytellers, wintering in smoke-filled huts through weeks of darkness, told of a reindeer with glowing golden antlers that fled across the heavens from a hunter and his dogs.

If the huntsman ever caught the reindeer, the legend said, Earth would crack and chaos would engulf the cosmos.

The Lapps, whose lives are still tied to animals, believed the reindeer in the stars would strike them blind if they stared at one.

"This is a belief going back thousands of years," said Nila Outakoski, a theology researcher at the University of Helsinki. "The idea of Santa's reindeer was introduced to Scandinavia in postcards from America."

Lapps, who have lived in Northern Finland, Sweden, Norway and Russia for 6,000 years, were semi-nomadic hunters and fishermen before they began herding reindeer.

Today many of them earn money by taking tourists for rides in sleighs pulled by reindeer. But they know the animals as the difference between survival and death in the cold north, in legend and

in fact. According to one folktale, the sun god's daughter came to Earth, married a Lapp and brought a herd of reindeer as her dowry. Through the union, the northern tribes learned to tame the reindeer, tradition says.

"The reindeer was considered to be a brother — a living, thinking, feeling creature," said Louise Backman, a Lapp who teaches religion at the University of Stockholm. "The reindeer had a soul, and it offered itself to be killed so that people could eat and be warmly clothed."

Reindeer also were sacrificed to ensure favourable hunting and good fortune. "After a reindeer was eaten, its bones had to be left in a special place and be offered to the gods, so that a new reindeer would grow," Outakoski said.

Lapps also believed evil spirits and giants roamed the frozen wilds in the dark time when the sun does not rise above the horizon.

"We were told to stay indoors and beware of a giant that would grab children," said Backman, 65, whose father herded reindeer in Northern Sweden.

Before conversion to Christianity in the 18th and 19th centuries, the Lapps practiced Shamanism, the belief that good and evil spirits pervade the Earth.

They believed their shamans, or wise men, were able to commune with gods and spirits, and that the shamans used reindeer to settle scores. "They put their alter egos into large reindeer ducks that battled, sometimes to the death," Outakoski said.

## Exhausted Japanese revive on tonic drinks

By Mark O'Neill  
Reuters

TOKYO — Muscle-man Arnold Schwarzenegger and Japan's top teenage model, Rie Miyazawa, soar like rockets into the sky, clutching the secret of cosmic power — a tiny bottle of medicinal tonic.

It is just one shot in a relentless barrage of advertising that has made tonic drinks a billion-dollar industry in Japan.

The fire is directed at exhausted Japanese, from children cramming for exams to executives working late on a report — in fact anyone who seeks that decisive burst of energy.

Enter a chemist's shop in Japan and an array of little

bottles await you, their bright, exotic labels promising strength, energy and relief from exhaustion or hangover.

Prices range from 150 to 3,000 yen (\$1.20 to \$20) for bottles containing 50 to 100 millilitres (1.7 to 3.4 fluid ounces).

"Most buyers are salarymen (white-collar workers) between 20 and 50," one shop manager said. "They drink them any time of the day when they're tired and in need of a quick fillip."

"Other remedies, like Chinese medicines, might be better but they take too long to prepare. These tonic drinks are easy and convenient — that's what people want."

The drinks contain a mixture of vitamins, amino acids

and caffeine, together with minerals such as calcium and iron.

More exotic and expensive brews include Korean ginseng and essence of intimate parts of deer, for example, or turtles or snakes. Some come with a promise of better sexual performance.

The health ministry issues no sales figures for tonic drinks, demand for which grew steadily in the hectic 1980s. Industry estimates put 1991 sales at about 195 billion yen (\$1.57 billion).

Bachelor Yoshiaki Mima, 28, is a typical customer. He works for a computer firm, lives alone and is overworked.

"My diet is unbalanced — I have no time for breakfast, I eat too much pre-cooked food and not enough veget-

ables or vitamins," he said. "I drink tonic to make up for my poor diet."

"I hardly slept last night," said Hiroshi Suzuki, who works in the storeroom of a bookshop. "I need a tonic to wake me up and keep me going for the rest of the day."

At first the tonics targeted working men between 30 and 50, but manufacturers later diversified with new brands and images aimed at housewives, female office assistants and schoolchildren.

Much of their success is due to energetic advertising. For example, Zena, the latest product from the giant Taisho pharmaceutical company, is the subject of a saturation press and television campaign featuring a popular comedian, Joji Tokoro.

Tokoro opens a Zena bottle and releases a golden cloud that clears to show a spectacularly rugged desert landscape. "Energy blood spirit" the sound track blares.

Zena's tiny bottle contains 17 ingredients that the advertising says combine modern science with the centuries-old wisdom of Chinese traditional medicine to bring relief from exhaustion and provide a vital pick-me-up.

In another widely shown commercial, an office worker is so exhausted his tie gets up and walks away, but a tonic drink revives him and gets him back on the job.

Slogans are perfectly geared for the leaders of corporate Japan, a land that bad to coin a special word, "karoshi" to describe the growing phenomenon of

death from overwork.

Taisho started the tonic drink trend in 1962 with Lipovitan D, the first Japanese energizer in liquid, rather than pill form.

Lipovitan D remains the bestseller today, helped by an advertising pitch featuring baseball and ice skating stars.

"I drink this when I'm tired," Ryoichi Yamamoto said as he bought his bottle of Chinese Royal Jelly. "It works. I feel refreshed and more energetic. These tonics have no side-effects."

"Japanese love medicines and doctors tend to overprescribe, so people are very ready to accept these medicinal tonics. They have a good, positive image," he said.



## Viruses, again

By Jean-Claude Elias

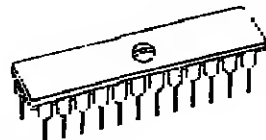
Perhaps the hottest computer subject in 1992 was neither the announcement of 'Open Systems' nor the introduction on the market of the lightning fast 486 Personal Computer (PC) that is slowly but surely becoming a de-facto standard, but the ubiquitous virus. So much has been written and said on it during the past year that I was wondering whether it would be relevant to add anything else.

I have two good reasons to come on this issue again. As far as computer viruses are concerned, PC users can be put in two categories: those who still don't realise exactly what a virus is and those who, while understanding what it is, keep forgetting the basic rules of how to avoid being contaminated and repeat the same mistakes again and again.

A PC virus is a very small and hidden programme, generally added by a programmer — the culprit — to a larger programme written by someone else — the innocent — and intentionally placed there with the obvious intention of damaging, one way or another, the user's data or programmes. Let's stop here and repeat to those who do not know it: No, a contaminated computer is not to throw away, it can be cleaned, whatever the virus is. I have been personally told by someone last month: "I intended to sell my PC to a friend and buy a new and faster one, but no one will buy my PC now that it has got a virus!" There is always a way to kill the virus, even if the only cure is to re-format (completely erase) the hard disk of the PC. In other words, a virus will never damage or affect the hardware.

Viruses have the faculty copying themselves to other disks and programmes sometimes very discreetly, hence their name and the accompanying list of terms like contaminated, infected, cleaned, immunisation, etc... The extent and the nature of the damage they can cause vary with each virus. This can go from a simple interruption of the computer running to complete files being erased from the hard disk. But all this is perfectly understandable and far from being frightening if one remembers the first definition I gave above: a virus is programme. A programme, indeed can do all these operations: copying, erasing, etc... There is therefore nothing particularly frightening about that, except for the fact that the programme is hidden, unwanted, and does all these operations when it chooses to, without a warning. Some viruses have nice sounding names like 'Michelangelo' or 'Irish' while others

## chip talk



are named 'Joshi' or 'Friday 13'.

Specialists have so far isolated more than 900 different types. Programmes have been developed to detect and kill the viruses. The only difficulty with such programmes is that you always need to have the latest, for by the time they are released, virus creators find a way to bypass them and develop new viruses. It's a typical cat and mouse game.

A sensible, practical and effective protection derives from simple logic. Avoid as much as possible copying programmes from unknown sources, and use original, sealed software — not pirated. If what you need is a word processor, for instance, choose a good one and stick to it. There is no point in having three or four different programmes for the same task and you would uselessly and drastically increase the contamination risk. Once you have diskettes you are sure of, that is to say not contaminated, use the physical write-protection feature available to avoid accidental copying. The 3.5" floppies have a plastic tab for that and the 5.25" a sticker. Do not let too many people use your computer or copy unknown software on it. Before installing a new programme, use a Virus Scanner — the above mentioned virus detection programme — to check the new comer. More important, make good and clean back up — additional — copies of your valuable data on diskettes or magnetic tapes. They could prove to be your only recourse if all goes wrong.

Above rules are very effective for stand-alone PCs, computers that are not connected to other machines, to local networks or to telephone lines via modems. For the latter, the risk is obviously higher. The good news is that the second half of 1992 seemed to indicate a slight decrease in the number of infected PCs, in Jordan at least. Let's wish all PCs a good health for 1993.

## A half breed rock "Piaf" and French rap

With the pop group "Téléphone," one could speak of French rock, without laughing, but it was always a fight between rock and song. Now, there is great love between the accordion and the electric guitar, locked in passionate embrace.

"Mano Negra" mixes genres, languages and instruments without respect. It is fiery rock combining reggae, ska, salsa, rhythm and blues, pogo, rai, java, popular dance music and the noise of the fridge. The partitioned off cold-stores of the purists have been abolished. Now is the time of plural music, with the rhythm and dance of the high-voltage show in concerts throughout the world and the suburbs.

The Mano group sings in English, the mother tongue of rock: Spanish, the language of the immigrant parents of Manu Chao who is the life line and leader of the "black hand" (mano negra, the name of the group). Arabic, not only because two of the members are Moroccan, but because it is, a little, the blood of France; and the French language of realist songs (such as were sung by Darius Milhaud) about the tough, melodramatic life of the working classes.

Their first album, "Patchanka" sold 100,000 records, although it was produced by a small company. "Patchanka" is a sort of popular dance music, a variety music kind of flamenco, played by louts in Spanish dance-halls. "Put a Fever", the second album, sold 300,000 records in less than six months and "King of Bongo", their latest album, is selling like hot cakes.

This disparate kind of rock, sung by fire-eaters on misty quaysides, practised in cellars and squats and on the pavements of the working class districts of Paris is sailing on "Cargo 92" together with the "Royal de Luxe" theatre company, for a tour in Latin America, fulfilling the Gaulish dream of "la mano (negra) en la mano." In its hold, the cargo-ship is carrying a piece of France, a real bit of Rue de Nantes street, with its paving stones and drain-covers, its real Facades and its windows.

### Fun

The hand is black and the Negresses are green, through a blending of cultures. The "Negresses Vertes" has

eleven members, mostly boys from big families or football teams, children from bousing estates of immigrants. They are called Canavese, waltz or rock accordion, Melino, who sticks to rumba, Paulus, rock, soul, funky, Helmo, French tradition etc. In short, as they themselves point out in "In-rockuptible," the group is very varied. So are our records, even if their smell of "Negresses Vertes" through and through.

The eleven have offspring (a big family once again), characters coming straight out of realist songs or the cinema of the same kind: Marcelle Ratafia, Zobi the Fly, the Fanfaron, the Felouze, etc... "Our world music is popular Paris folklore. And then we grew up with Italians, Spaniards, Algerians and Poles. We ourselves come from all these origins."

Travelling between the sunny coasts of the Mediterranean and the damp pavements of a lost Paris, they perform French songs to a rock background, achieving the paradox revealed by a journalist on the "New York Times": "The more various ethnic influences the 'Negresses Vertes' have, the more they sound absolutely French." The only word that counts is "fun."

### Arletty's accent

"She frequented Rue

Pigalle. She smells of cheap vice," Piaf used to sing. "Pigalle" is also the name, and not just by chance, of a group led by François Hadji-Lazaro, having the stature and shorn head of a wrestler, a polymorphous musician, singer and composer bleeding with erotic thriller poetry and unkind humour.

"Afflicted looks at the dull and pitiful existence of Benjamin Tremblay, an odd person, but oh how fascinating" is the title of the latest album, a story of wanderings, suburbs, unimportant people and cafés where we meet Marie the Redhead, the tart of Longwy (in Lorraine), and Angèle and her squirrel-like eyes. "Our music could be defined as rock with French roots."

"In the room of the bar and tobaccoist's in Rue des Martyrs, everybody gently forgets the shadow of a past life, of a woman, of ruins... There are syringes greedily emptied in arms without a future... There are tattooed old guys talking about their memories." In the voice of Father François (Hadji-Lazaro), beneath his fingers on the accordion, lies gloomy Paris, in the concrete, the Chinatown and the amnesic tarmac. It is as beautiful as Daria's romances, Arletty's Parisian street-accent, Michel Simon's face and Gabin's mug.

### Musical arena

French rap exists. It surges up out of the feverish, explosive suburbs of Paris or Marseilles and is called IAM

or NTM. Rap is rhythm and rhyme. Words call up other words by having the same sound in a register of anathema to trash racism and the suburbs, cops, politics, money, the media, dealers and all power.

But there is a great difference, in the intention and in the tone, between the hard rap of NTM (for "Nique ta mère" (Cheek your mother) which claims to be the "inventor of verbal sodomy" to the more casual rap of M.C. Solaar, "the philosopher of rap." Even if they all only swear by the music. "The tempo is king in the musical arena. The dreams are mine, the lexical torero."

M.C. Solaar is one of the rare French singers to have made it into the English hit-parade and his clip "Victim of fashion" was shown on the very protectionist American MTV. Without being a renegade of the rap cause, he has a subtle style and plays on shades of meaning. Rather than calling for revolt, he sings derision in gentle terms and keeps smiling. "Qui sème le vent récolte le tempo" (Who sows the wind harvests the tempo) is the title of his latest album and clearly announces his preference for a cloudless sky, the same as "My tactic attacks all ethnic with tact," which pays homage to old Racine who, 300 years ago, had written the rap line "Pour qui sont ces serpents qui sifflent sur vos têtes?" — L'actualité En France.

Maroussia et Jean-Marc Dupuich



Mano Negra in concert

## The struggle continues

By E. Yaghi

Nearly one year has passed since Carol entered the golden gates of the university. Many things have happened since then. She felt that the invisible mantle which had formerly settled over her had undergone a process of change. Though there was nothing finite about this change or anything that was bluntly obvious or evident, there was the existence of an inner glow that made her feel much better about herself and more positive about life. Being one more year educated didn't make her any better than those who had less education, but academic learning was a benefaction of grace and an entity to venerate and appreciate. Had she accomplished anything? Yes, she had moved one year forward towards obtaining a degree. This fact in itself was a token of a feat and even if something drastic occurred in which she was unable to get that precious coveted piece of paper which certified that she was one of the Lucky Ones, Carol felt at least she had gained so much more than she had been in possession of before.

Whenever one of her sons saw her straining her eyes studying for an exam, he would say, "Why do you try so hard, Mom? You're not going to get a job with your degree: 'You're not like us, we need that certificate in order to get a professional position that will secure our future.'"

With exasperation she would reply, "Yes, it's true. I'm not going to go out and look for a job with my degree if I get it, but I value studying for the sake of it and I hate to do poorly on any exam."

Such an answer would only make her children laugh and shrug, for how could they take such matters seriously? And whenever they wanted to eat or desired some other service performed, they would demand that she do this or that for them. "I'm studying," she would insist. "Can't it wait?"

Again, one of her sons would say: "It's not that important if you study or not. Remember, you're a mother first, then a student."

So, she would often have to quit her reading and do whatever task was required of her to satisfy the needs of her offspring.

Actually, in spite of the drawbacks, her sons were quite happy with their mother's pursuit of a higher education because her personal satisfaction seemed to spread out and touch the whole family. The only time she would really complain about the drudgery of studying was when she had exams. "Oh," she would moan, "I must be crazy to go back to school after all these years. Why couldn't I have been content to just sit at home and forget about all this hassle and worry? Not having a higher education does have its advantages. It's so much easier. Cooking and cleaning may be tiresome but at least not such a mental strain."

On the whole, she was content with most of her professors' performances too. The only thing she really complained about was memorisation. Often she groaned, "I'm absolutely no good at memorising anything. I don't know how these kids do it, but then I guess this is something they are used to from when they first start school."

But what was it really like to be an older, married woman among students who were the age of some of her own children? What was it like to also be a foreigner and so clumsy at speaking Arabic? Did Carol face any problems? Yes, at the beginning, she had to learn to cope with both being an older woman and also being a foreigner. Many a time she felt that she was an outcast and an outsider. She was tempted to quit and would go home almost in tears.

Being older was bad enough, but being foreign made it even harder. However, it wasn't long before she discovered that there were other older women studying at the university. Some were wives of professors. Some were teachers at local schools who were being sent back by the government to complete their education, and some were there simply because they had the same desire for self-improvement. But Carol had no such women in any of her classrooms. At the beginning of each semester, some students were amazed, nay, even shocked to see her as a student. Many ignored her but some became even quite friendly. There is always a stigma about being a foreigner, especially an older one, but Carol tried not to be so bothered or sensitive about the indifference of some students. She would sigh to her family at supper: "The best time to me is when the professor enters the classroom. Then, being foreign and older doesn't matter at all, for the force of knowledge then rules supreme and all barriers melt away."

And conversations during meals tended to revolve around what this or that professor said, or what happened on this or that exam, or what this or that required text did or did not mean. A whole new life had come into being and Carol felt she was a born again person. Maybe this exhilarating buoyancy wasn't exactly shared by her household or even the house itself, for often it had to suffer dreadfully when there were exams which seemed to prevail 90% of the time. And though hot meals hadn't become something of the past, the only time she could cook up time consuming ones was on Thursdays and Fridays.

"Well," she confessed to a friend, "everyone and everything pays the price when I go to the university, including the house: It is a sacrifice for all, especially my husband, for he's so used to having me as a permanent fixture and my going to learn is still his shock!"

Registration for this coming semester was somewhat reconciling. This time, someone had ingeniously organised the whole affair and those nightmarish incidents of clawing, scratching, screaming, shouting, pushing, shoving and cursing had made way for more orderly conduct and a larger staff to accommodate the students. The mad mob scene had been replaced by a more human effort to meet student demands. The only drawback this time was that Carol was appointed to register on the last day of registration and all the classes she had chosen were full and no more seats were available. It took three separate attempts until she finally and desperately told her friends, "It doesn't matter who or what I have to take, I'll register for any class with any professor just to be able to have enough subjects."

What will happen then concerning those notorious professors that she had been warned not to take any courses with? No one knows. She will have to make the best of each subject, come what may.

She found the energy and enthusiasm of the younger students to be magnetic and invigorating. Each day when she walked to her morning class, she would think, "I'm part of this university now. I am a part of the pine trees, the sidewalks, even the students, the lectures, the professors and everything I encounter. Education is still my duty from the cradle to the grave and all my experiences become a part of me that is as vital and dear as life itself. Yes, I have to put up with red eyes, lack of sleep, physical and mental exhaustion, but like Ulysses himself, I can only say, 'To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield.'"

Truly, life is a journey which resembles a train ride. Our experiences are those obstacles and blessings that this train of life meets along the way.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday Jan. 7 you try to give it away? Here is a man who tried to just.

8:30 Uncle Buck 10:00 News In English

9:10 The Human Factor 10:20 Columbo

A series on the human factor, the emotional part of doctor-patient relationship.

10:00 News In English 10:20 Movie Of The Week

Corbine Williams 8:30 America's Funniest Home Videos

Starring: James Stewart 9:00 Perspective

Friday Jan. 8 9:30 Varieties

8:30 Coach 10:00 News In English

9:10 E.N.G. 10:20 Feature Film

Fools Rush In. The Man From Alamo

If you win \$20 million would Starring: Glenn Ford, and Julia Adams

Sunday Jan. 10

8:30 Family Matters 8:30 Perfect Strangers

False Arrest 10:00 News In English

9:10 National Geographic 10:20 Prime Suspect

10:00 News In English 10:20 The Dirtwater Dynast

Confession 10:00 News In English

Monday Jan. 11 8:30 Saved By The Bell

9:00 Spotlight

8:30 Step By Step 9:30 James Randy

The Dance 10:00 News In English

9:10 A Fine Romance 10:20 Echoes In The Darknes

Thats All Folks Part 2-

10:00 News In English The final part of the continuing story of the murder of Susan and her two young kids.

10:20 The Dismissal

## NOTES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

A traveller in Africa was staying in a remote part of the country. One day, as he left the veranda of his dwelling, a lion leapt at him but he had the presence of mind to duck and the lion jumped over his head. This happened again a morning or so later with the lion clearing off into the bush after missing him. Being very cautious by now, the traveller next day looked through the window before venturing out. To his astonishment, there before the veranda, was the lion practising low jumps.

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Journeying in Africa, a traveller called on a friendly tribe and found to his great surprise that he knew the chief, who had been at school with him in England. Of course the traveller was given a great welcome and he was able to stay for a few days. The chief asked the traveller if he would like to take away something as a souvenir. Now the chief had a fine carved wooden throne and the traveller asked if a replica of it could be made for him. The chief agreed and it was made and presented to the traveller who stored it for the few more days that he was to remain at the top of a large wooden pole in the grass house which the chief had placed at his disposal. But that night a great storm arose and the throne came hurtling down and was smashed in a thousand pieces. The moral for this story? — People who live in grass houses shouldn't stow thrones.

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Two men met in London and spent a convivial evening together. As they were about to part, one man suddenly realised that he had lost his last train home so the other insisted that he should spend the night at his house. They started off, arrived at the terminus and caught the local train which eventually stopped at a small wayside station where they alighted. They were still feeling quite merry and commenced to walk on their way. Suddenly, the man who had offered to put the other up, started to laugh uproariously. "Whatever are you laughing about?" asked the other. "You'll laugh and all," replied the first man. "I've just remembered that we moved from here last week!"

كندا من الامارات



## It's Michael Caine's season

By Robert Shelton

LONDON — British actor Michael Caine has been splashing out in all directions this season. He has started producing films, has launched a whirlwind publicity campaign for his autobiography entitled *What's It All About?* (published by Century, £16.99); he is also starring in *The Muppet Christmas Carol*, a retelling of the Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol*. Caine plays the part of Scrooge opposite the droll "toy," the popular Miss Piggy. "She's been the worst of my leading ladies. She has a very big ego," the star said in a recent interview. The movie opened on Dec. 12 in the U.S. and on Dec. 18 in the U.K.

As is typical of Caine, he does not take his long career all that seriously in public, although he pursues it with great fervor. Typical also of Caine is to make light fun of himself in his autobiography. It's part of the well-established style we've come to know and love all these years. Behind the breeziness and apparent coolness, however, is a highly dedicated actor whose mastery of technique is so great that he can appear not to be acting at all. When Britons recently watched him giving some drama students a

master-class on television, viewers could see a professional aware of every step he makes, every gesture and every shade of voice he uses.

In co-producing the recently released thriller *Blue Ice* with his partner Martin Bregman, Caine was, he said, "making an effort to control my own destiny, instead of waiting for some Hollywood agent to ring me up." The agents have been ringing him up for years now with regularity. He remains a global superstar, despite a roster of some films he would have done better to reject as being beneath him. Caine once cynically said of his appearing in too many bad films: "I have been poor and I have been rich. I prefer being rich."

If critics are right, *Blue Ice* won't add much to his millions. He plays a retired British secret agent who is running a jazz club in Soho. Fiery actress Sean Young (who has a controversial newspaper reputation as "difficult") plays the wife of the U.S. ambassador who seduces Caine into returning to intrigue and espionage. The movie got a round of negative reviews for its clichés, predictable plot and catalogue of spy and action devices. This, despite his

appearing opposite Young and his old pal, Bob Hoskins.

Asked if he chose roles for money or quality these days, Caine quips: "What do you mean, these days?" He explained, however, that many of his roles looked stronger and sounded better before filming than the final product.

To illustrate the surprising results of some movies, Caine pointed to a series of British actors who won Oscars from Hollywood for roles no American actor would touch, like Daniel Day Lewis who played a paraplegic in *My Left Foot*. Jeremy Irons who played an arrogant playboy suspected of the attempted murder of his rich wife in *Reversal of Fortune*, or Anthony Hopkins who played a cannibalistic serial psychotic murderer in *The Silence of the Lambs*.

Caine tried to define the money versus quality questions in contrasting two different pieces of paper. "You have the review and the check there. You didn't keep the movie, OK, but you keep the check," he said. While laughing off some mediocre films he's made down the years, Caine was quick to speak about his own Oscar nominations for *Alfie*, the movie that catapulted him

into stardom in 1966. *Sleuth*, where he starred with Laurence Olivier, and Woody Allen's *Hannah and Her Sisters* in 1986.

Many film fans would also agree that he and Sean Connery starred in a classic in *The Man Who Would Be King* from a Rudyard Kipling story in 1975. He and Connery played two British adventurers in India mistaken for 'god-kings' by a remote tribe; unfortunately they got greedy and the story ends in tragedy. Over the span of his 40-year career, the actor said: "There's quite a few films worth looking back on...but I don't even look back at the good ones. I always look forward."

And directing looms large when he discusses his plans. His work on the autobiography has also stimulated his interest in writing. "I've now got the bug to write short stories and screenplays," he explained. But in no way is he abandoning acting for some time. "I'm only 59 years old, so I've got another six years of acting ahead of me anyway." And who has ever heard of an international superstar retiring at 65?

Michael Caine has had a pretty good run of it. He was born in 1933, the son of a Billingsgate fish porter and a

charlady. His original name was Maurice Joseph Micklewhite. Although he never talks of money, it's estimated he's earned a total of about £25 million (\$37.5 million), a relatively small amount compared to Hollywood contracts, but enough to forget about his poor beginnings. Caine was reared in a two-room gas-light flat, and was evacuated during the war with his kid brother, Stanley, to Norfolk. His acting career started in the Lowescroft Repertory Theatre. His breakthrough in film came in a starring part as a British soldier — defeated by Zulu tribesmen in the *Grand War of the 1890s* — in *Zulu* in 1963, and he's done about four films a year since then with the total nearly 70. After an early first marriage to actress Patricia Haines that ended in divorce, he married Guyanese-born beauty Shakti Baksh 20 years ago. He has a daughter from each marriage, Dominique and Natasha.

Following Hollywood trends, he has invested in smart London restaurants like Langan's and Odo's in Chelsea Harbour. Caine has a close coterie of friends who met in the 1960s and are all over 50 years old. They share a distaste for British class



Michael Caine, seen here in the directing and writing to his gruelling thriller *Blue Ice*, plans to add acting schedule: About four movies a year

concerns and include actors Sean Connery and Roger Moore, owner of the chic club called 'Tramp.' Johnny Gold, film-maker Michael Winner, author Frederick Forsyth, broadcaster David Frost and composer Andrew Lloyd Weber. "We call ourselves the Mayfair Orphans," Caine says. His autobiography is per-

pered with witty stories about his upward struggle for recognition as an actor, always fighting off those who would brand him a "cockney actor."

His dislike of British envy is strong, and he loves to give the old posh British image a gibe when he can, mentioning in his book the Rolls-Royce salesman reluctant to

sell him a car because of his lack of polish.

"I never think about going back to the theatre," he confesses. "The theatre was like a woman I loved who didn't love me back, and treated me like dirt. The movies were like a woman who loved me and no matter what I did, she loved me anyway." — World News Link.

## Indochina transforms Catherine Deneuve

By Guadalupe Enriquez

SEVILLE, Spain — Her most recent movie, *Indochina*, has confirmed her as one of the last great stars of the international cinema scene. Beautiful as ever, Catherine Deneuve is looking different these days. In an exclusive interview, she explains why.

**QUESTION:** Does this new look of yours have something to do with your latest movie, *Indochina*?

**ANSWER:** "I don't think I've changed that much, but yes, perhaps something has remained of the character I portrayed. It is not the first time something like this has happened. For example, I remember that when I filmed *The White Queen* I had to put a few pounds on. In this film, I've had to cut my hair because the story is set in the Indochina of the 1930s, and in those days, no European women wore their hair long."

**Q:** Why didn't you just use a wig?

**A:** "I tried. But it was too uncomfortable. With just a small cosmetic adjustment, we found we could change me into the delicate Englishwoman we were striving for."

**Q:** That seems strange, bearing in mind that many people consider you to be a symbol of Paris...

**A:** "Yes, a great many people see me as a typically Parisian woman, and perhaps for that reason, they think of me as being very sophisticated. But I think it's a good thing to change the way you look from time to time, even if there's nothing in the script that calls for it."

**Q:** In this case, the script called for a woman with a strong personality. Did you find it easy to identify with the character of Eliane?

**A:** "Yes. It was extremely easy. I feel I have a lot in common with her in terms of personality."

**Q:** Perhaps that is because this was a script written specifically for you?

**A:** "Let's say that I am lucky in that the directors with whom I work write with me in mind. In this case, the character goes about her life with the same kind of energy with which I tackle mine. It is a very full role, what I would call 'a man's role,' in that it's very demanding. I am at various times a mother, a child, a strong woman and a vulnerable one. It is wonderful to play such a complex and tortured character."

**Q:** Did you discuss this with the director?

**A:** "Yes, Regis Wargnier wanted to make this movie and we talked about it before he prepared the script. He already had in mind a woman with a strong character who had the same qualities as a man when it came to making decisions, but who was at the same time also gentle and romantic. That's how the film — and my role in it — took off. And I am very happy with the way it went."

**Q:** When you are working, do you try to seduce the director or the public?

**A:** "I don't try to seduce anyone in particular. When I am filming, my public is the crew with whom I am working. I



Although she projects the sophisticated image of a glamorous movie star, Catherine Deneuve devotes her off-screen life to her children and friends

feel calm and comfortable in their presence and I try to make myself appear to my public through the camera. I like to share my work with everyone. Actors are people who need to work in a harmonious environment. I have been lucky enough to work with great directors such as (Luis) Bunuel, (Francois) Truffaut and many more."

**Q:** Do you feel yourself to be the queen of French cinema?

**A:** "I wouldn't say that. There are many other very good actresses in France. If I am a symbol, it is because I have reached an age at which France has conferred a kind of status on me. But age does not bother me. I care more about the quality of my life."

**Q:** Does that mean that cinema is not the most important thing in your life?

**A:** "Cinema has been the most important thing in my life. But now I also have my children, and there are other things which help to give me a sense of balance. I need to do things that I like doing."

**Q:** So really, you are not the typical star you are made out to be?

**A:** "I am a very active woman who lives life as it really is. I am not an inaccessible star. In a sense, I am a star who has

given birth to a great many characters. I am a privileged actress, with an important place in the difficult world of cinema. It is also true that I have been spoiled by directors and producers."

**Q:** If you had the chance of another life, would you still like to come back as Catherine Deneuve?

**A:** "I would do everything just the way I have done. I don't regret a single thing. But I do say that it's wonderful to be able to enjoy my children and my friends."

**Q:** Several of these latter have died. Is the problem of AIDS something that worries you?

**A:** "Yes, it's true. In the past few years I have lost several good friends because of this terrible disease. So now, in my own way, I am helping various organizations which take care of people who are sick with AIDS. I am convinced that the HIV test (to see whether a person has the AIDS virus) should be free, simple to do and completely anonymous. People have to be ready to help others who are suffering from illnesses which affect everyone. It's the same with drug addiction."

**Q:** Going back to the cinema, which are your favourite actresses?

**A:** "There are a great many I like — Louise Brooks, Julie Christie, Jessica Lange, Carole Lombard, Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon. I like the strength and energy of North American actresses, but I must also include Sophia Loren since it was by watching her when I was a child that I first decided I wanted to become an actress."

**Q:** Have you ever considered doing anything else but working in the cinema?

**A:** "So far, I haven't had any desire to do anything else. At times, I feel drawn by the theatre, but I don't think I'd be much good at it. I am too nervous by nature. In any case, I would only do it for personal reasons. I wouldn't want to make a career out of it."

**Q:** When you began acting, aged 15, did you ever think you'd become as famous as you are today?

**A:** "I didn't expect anything. I didn't even know what an actress was. But I have learned a great deal about life through films. Starting very young is certainly a great help, especially if you are well received, because then other offers start coming in. But when I began my career, the competition was not as stiff as it is now."

**Q:** Why have you cultivated this image of being a very reserved person?

**A:** "I am very reserved. In any case, I don't want to change my character, even though at times I find it difficult to control my temper. I generally like secrets, and having a life that is different from my public one."

**Q:** Are you referring to your charitable work?

**A:** "Yes. I like helping people in need without expecting anything in return. I think a lot of people have a false idea of me, and for that reason, I try to protect myself. I have a very close circle of friends whom I think of as part of my family." — World News Link.

## Louvre unveils restoration of colossal Venetian masterpiece

PARIS (AP) — A colossal banquet scene by Venetian master Veronese has returned to public view at the Louvre after a near-fatal crash that sliced the canvas in five places.

But some prominent French artists are crying foul, saying the three-year restoration that removed centuries of patina and grit altered the work's character and may have changed some of the original colors.

"The Marriage at Cana," the largest Renaissance painting in France, has been put on display until March 29 along with 15 other Veronese works from the museum's permanent collection.

Completed in a record 15 months' time in 1563 to decorate an entire wall of a Benedictine monastery in Venice, the giant painting — 22 feet (6.7 metres) by 32 feet (9.0 metres) — depicts the Biblical feast at Cana where Jesus Christ miraculously transformed water into wine.

The painting has been hailed as the first banquet scene of modern times and considered a masterpiece because of its spectacularly symmetrical architecture, perspective and attention to detail.

However, the meticulous cleaning job, which has laid bare magnificent hues of red, blue, green and gold, has drawn fire from art purists who contend it has destroyed the work's ambience and fundamental character.

A group of 160 artists calling themselves the association to protect the integrity of artistic heritage, headed by the respected artist Jean Bazaine, published a statement accusing the Louvre of violating the painting's integrity.

A similar controversy erupted during the restoration of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel in Rome.

Yet, curators, critics and art historians have argued convincingly that the cleaning has breathed new life into the work.

"I think that viewers will now be able to appreciate Veronese's painterly skills as well as the work's complexity," said Pierre Schneider, art critic for the weekly news magazine L'Express.

A team of restorers wielding cotton swabs and experimenting with special solvents, removed countless

layers of grime, dust and varnish that had accumulated on the surface of the canvas over the centuries turning bright reds, greens and golds into a gloomy study in dark yellow and faded browns.

Visitors need just turn their heads to see the toll that time takes on fragile art. Several of the other Veroneses on show have not been restored.

The restored work is breathtaking. For example, the sumptuous patterns of the silk and brocade fabrics are clearly visible, as are the musical instruments, eating utensils, dishes, food on the table.

"This isn't a restoration, it's a veritable resurrection," said Nathalie Volle, the chief curator who oversaw the project. "The main discovery was that the work was a veritable symphony of colours."

Volle told reporters that the most dramatic change in the painting involved a large male figure standing in the foreground and wearing a turban.

"For centuries, this figure was dressed in a reddish brown robe that turned out to be green once the top layers of paint and varnish had been removed," Volle said.

A hazy, brooding sky turned into the lapis lazuli blue of a clear summer day.

Also on show — on the opposite side of the Salle des Etats where the restored work is on show — is a life size X-ray of the painting.

The X-ray tells the story of the tempestuous history of "The Marriage at Cana." First, there are dozens of holes from the wooden nails which attached the mural to the abbey wall until Napoleon's soldiers tore it down to bring back to France as war booty.

The X-ray also reveals some of the work's long hidden secrets. One stiff figure dressed in black turned out to have been created on paper and then glued onto the canvas. The X-ray, however, was taken before the paintings most recent brush with destruction.

Last June, as workers checked its wall anchorings, a specially-built tower supporting the painting jiggled, sending a powerful ripple through the two ton canvas which then crashed to the floor.

## Tourists are the enemy in Florence museum

By John Follain  
Reuters

FLORENCE, Italy — In Italy's most famous museum, there is no room to hang a coat and visitors are a threat. The only time the Uffizi Gallery managed to cope with the flow of tourists was during the Gulf war. There weren't any.

The paintings of Botticelli, Leonardo and Michelangelo in Italy's most-visited museum are regularly out of bounds. On average, a third of the gallery's rooms are closed off during the tourist season because of a chronic staff shortage.

"These things never hap-

pen in Paris or London. They never close museums because of staff shortages. Tourists who come to our country have nowhere to go at weekends and on holidays," complained leading art historian Federico Zeri.

The lucky ones who do manage to get in have to brush up on scum tactics if they want a peep at Sandro Botticelli's 15th century *Spring* and *Birth of Venus*, the main crowd-pullers in the world's finest collection of Italian painting.

"The pushing and shoving in the galleries is a barbarity. Visiting a museum today has become a strain," acknowledged Antonio Paolucci, the

government official who supervises several Florentine museums including the Uffizi.

"For museum guards and directors, it's like trying to hold a trench with fewer and fewer soldiers in the face of an ever-bigger offensive," he said.

The Gulf war of 1991 eased the pressure on the Uffizi when many tourists, led by the Americans and Japanese, stayed away from Europe because of security fears.

But this year the Uffizi is heading for visitor levels not seen in five years. More than 900,000 people have already visited it this year.

This summer the Uffizi

managed to borrow some extra guards from city hall authorities to reinforce its own contingent, but a handful of other museums had to close to release the staff.

One local arts chief has called for school field trips to be banned — they were "barbarian hordes" which only damaged Florence's art treasures. Another said visitors should be forced to book Uffizi tickets in advance.

"There's little point in trying to restrict the flow. How could we organise bookings when we get a million visitors a year? Anyway, people should be free to pop in any time," said Uffizi Director Annamaria Petrioli

Tofani.

She said her hands were tied by bureaucrats in Rome who accepted the Uffizi's earnings and vetted her every move — from restoring a painting to hiring an extra custodian.

It was interference from Rome that derailed a 70-billion lire (\$50 million) project to overhaul the Uffizi.

The scheme would triple the Uffizi's display space by taking over the former offices of the state archives on the first floor.

The offices have been empty for five years. The Uffizi's deposits are crammed with 2,000 paintings and 200 sculptures.

When the Rome government gave the go-ahead after years of haggling, it awarded the contract to several huge companies more used to building motorways and skyscrapers.

The project ran into trouble in October when an injection of cement into the foundations of the Uffizi caused cracks in an underground vault.

Unkind critics compared the damage to the cracks the Uffizi suffered during World War II when Nazi troops set off explosive charges to destroy all buildings close to the nearby Ponte Vecchio, Florence's most picturesque bridge.



## Inexpensive programme in Africa curbs heterosexual spread of AIDS virus

By Brenda C. Coleman  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — In a programme that could serve as an example for U.S. inner cities, health workers in the African nation of Rwanda are curbing the heterosexual spread of the AIDS virus by targeting young women.

Rwanda, with 7.6 million inhabitants, has one of the world's highest AIDS rates. Nine of 10 deaths among young, rural women are caused by AIDS and almost one-third of urban adults are infected with the AIDS virus, or HIV, say researchers from

the University of California, San Francisco.

They studied 1,458 women aged 20 to 40 who enrolled in a prevention programme in 1988 in the Rwandan capital, Kigali. The programme provided confidential AIDS virus testing, viewing of a 35-minute educational video and group discussions afterwards.

All participants were given regular physical examinations, free condoms and spermicides and invitations for male partners to be tested and taught.

After one year, condom use had risen from 7 per cent

to 22 per cent among all the women's partners, the researchers reported in the latest issue of *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*.

Also, 26 per cent of the women brought their partners in for testing and education, and among those women, the rate of new AIDS-virus infections slowed from 4.0 per cent to 1.4 per cent annually, the study found.

"No other intervention has been able to demonstrate this level of effectiveness in reducing the spread of HIV in African adults," reported the

researchers, led by Dr. Susan Allen. "In our clinic, the cost per person is less than the cost of a one year supply of condoms."

Surveys in Africa have shown that people there are knowledgeable about AIDS and how HIV is spread, but this knowledge has had little impact on behaviour, necessitating more aggressive approaches, Dr. Allen said.

Jeffrey A. Kelly, a psychiatry professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin and an expert on community outreach against AIDS, said the study is important because it pioneers prevention

in the Third World.

"Much of what's happening in the developing world has been watching the epidemic and being alarmed," he said from Milwaukee. "This model is one that's unique for developing countries and may have implications for this country as well."

"It's certainly relevant for the new (U.S.) communities being affected, the inner city communities," said Dr. Seth Berkley, assistant director of the Health Science Division at New York City's Rockefeller Foundation.

The United States has become complacent about heterosexual AIDS, partly because a grim prophecy of a massive heterosexual epidemic did not materialise, Dr. Berkley wrote in an editorial accompanying the

Rwanda study in *JAMA*.

But other countries that have been complacent, such as Thailand and India, are suffering heterosexual AIDS explosions now, he said.

Even Britain has seen its proportion of heterosexual AIDS infections rise from 4 per cent of the total in 1986 to 23 per cent in 1991, Dr. Berkley wrote. He noted that most cases resulted from contacts abroad or sex with someone from a high risk country.

In the United States, about 6 per cent of AIDS cases are heterosexual. By contrast, in Africa, up to 75 per cent of cases are heterosexually transmitted, according to the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and past reports by University of California researchers.

## India's children escape death but find hunger

By Siddharth Dube

NEW DELHI — Chronic hunger in India is increasing despite success in reducing severe childhood malnutrition and lowering death rates. Experts fear — contrary to received wisdom — that although people live longer and more of their children survive, they remain as poor, hungry and sick as ever.

The contradiction is particularly striking in Kerala, the small southern India state renowned for its human development record. The evidence suggests that while improving access to health facilities saves lives, it does little to prevent children from growing up to lives of permanent hunger.

An afternoon visit to the Mangalathu slum in Alappuzha in central Kerala reveals that virtually no one has eaten any solid food. Most have drunk only black coffee. Chellamma, a tiny grandmother, says: "We bear the hunger."

By the end of the day many families have drunk rice water, with some eating a little rice mixed with crushed chilies and salt. The families of fishermen may have cooked some of their unsold catch, but for most families in Mangalathu, fish, vegetables and milk are rare.

Research data suggests that a huge proportion of people in Kerala suffer from intense year-round hunger, with poor people eating worse than in any other part of the country.

The calorie intake of the poorest third of Kerala's population was already very low in 1961-62 when it averaged 960 kilocalories (kcal) per person — roughly equivalent to eating a small handful of rice. But by 1983 intake had fallen to 839 kcal, just above one-third of the government-recognised minimum energy requirement for adult Indians.

Kerala's poorest 10 per cent, like the families in the Mangalathu slum — live on just 500 kcal per day. Yet despite the severity of this hunger, few children suffer from severe malnutrition and even fewer die, say their parents.

The infant death rate in Kerala is 17 per 1,000 and life expectancy is 70 years — standards unrivalled by far wealthier districts in India. The incidence of severe protein-energy malnutrition (PEM), a state of sickness in young children brought on by hunger and disease, is only one-quarter of the Indian average.

These contradictory trends worry Indian health experts. They fear that public health programmes, as in Kerala, control deaths and severe

malnutrition but do nothing to alleviate chronic hunger.

Adults and children in Kerala fall sick often because of intense, perennial hunger. But children's sickness does not lead to severe malnutrition or death because most parents are literate and have their children treated at the state's extensive network of hospitals and clinics. Adults are similarly sick and stunted, but treatment keeps them alive.

What is true of Kerala is also true of the rest of the country. The proportion of children suffering from severe PEM fell from 15 per cent in the 1970s to 8.9 per cent in 1988-90. Death rates in children under five halved between 1960 and 1990.

But during the same periods the extent and severity of chronic hunger increased, according to a study for the United States Agency for International Development by economist Saroj Gupta.

Between 1961-62 rising frequencies of hunger were paralleled by an increase in the intensity of hunger faced by the poorest third of India's population.

In rural areas, home to 70 per cent of the country's population, calorie intake by the poorest 30 per cent fell from 1,500 kilocalories to 1,200 kcal. Protein consumption fell even more sharply.

Calorie intake levels for the poorest 10 per cent of the population in both rural and urban India stagnated at around 1,100 kcal.

"The poorer groups who could earlier just manage an adequate diet or a slightly deficient one had their diets deteriorate severely to the point where they joined the abject poor," writes Mr. Gupta. "The poverty level thus increased substantially in most of the states."

Data for the 1980s is now being analysed and reports confirm that the trend towards lower consumption has persisted.

"The improvement seen (in the incidence of malnutrition) during the past two decades is attributable to a variety of target-oriented health, nutrition and other programmes," says N. Prasad Rao, deputy director of the Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition.

"However, these interventions seem to control only the worst forms of malnutrition. These conclusions challenge much of the received wisdom about hunger and health. It would appear that the link between hunger and death has been severed by the spread of health facilities. But poor children in India escape death only to lead lives of hunger — Panos.

## Producing sperm 'reduces longevity' in worm species

By Malcolm Ritter  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In a finding that upsets conventional biological theory, a researcher has reported that producing sperm significantly shortens the lifespan of a tiny, bacteria-eating worm.

That suggests that producing sperm makes more demands on an organism's energy than biologists have always assumed. That energy demand leaves less energy available to be pumped into a longer lifespan.

The researcher drew no conclusions about what this result might mean for human beings.

"It would just be speculative to try and extrapolate this to humans," said the study's author, Wayne Van Voorhies of the University of Arizona in Tucson.

The findings appear in the latest issue of *Nature*, a British scientific journal.

Other researchers noted that it would be premature to draw conclusions from animals so far removed from humans. But they said it was possible that at least part of the reason women live longer than men was the burden placed on men by the production of sperm.

Philip Anderson, who studies the worm at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, said too little is known to even make an educated guess.

In any case, if the effect in humans were as strong as in worms, "we would have heard about it (because) there have been a lot of eunuchs in the world," he said.

He said he hoped it did not apply to people, "because then obviously one way of living longer would be to castrate oneself at an early age. It conjures up some scary life strategies."

He also cautioned that the conclusion that making sperm cuts worm lifespan is "a big leap" from the experimental results, and said more work must be done.

Dr. Van Voorhies studied roundworms called *Caenorhabditis elegans*, barely visible soil-dwelling creatures that are used widely in research.

Making sperm or eggs takes energy that an animal might otherwise spend on growing or keeping the body healthy. Biologists have traditionally thought that making sperm took little energy and so would not appreciably affect lifespan.

But the Nature study suggests quite the opposite, both for male worms and the far more plentiful hermaphrodites, which make egg and sperm and fertilise themselves.

Mating encourages sperm production, and Dr. Van

Voorhies found that male worms that were allowed to mate lived about eight days on average, much less than the 11 days noted for unmated males.

To see whether the difference came from making sperm or from the act of having sex itself, he studied worms that produced no sperm because of a genetic mutation.

The sperm-deficient worms lived more than 60 per cent longer than their normal counterparts, at 19 days versus 11.0 days for hermaphrodites and 13.6 days versus 0.1 days for mated males.

Dr. Voorhies said he suspects the mutation increases lifespan by not only blocking sperm production but also some other way.

He also said it is not clear just how making sperm could cut lifespan. "That's what makes it so intriguing," he said.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

MOVING EXPERIENCES

By Norana Siala-Serv

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## House endorses draft budget

(Continued from page 1)

Wednesday, Sharif Zeid also responded to deputies' comments on government policies on poverty, unemployment, investment, financial policies, administrative reforms and agricultural development.

Poverty "is one of the major concerns of the government which aims at containing it and easing its impact through a balanced financial, economic and social policy," Sharif Zeid told the House.

He pointed to the JD 13 million increase in the allocations to the National Aid Fund, saying the fund would provide assistance to all needy citizens.

In their speeches, deputies had warned that poverty was fast spreading in the country and called for more effective government measures to alleviate the "deteriorating living conditions of limited income citizens." They said the government increased its revenue by burdening limited income groups with heavy taxes.

Mr. Jardaneh told the House the government did not impose any new taxes in 1992 and average income improved by 10 per cent.

He said living conditions deteriorated in 1988 after the devaluation of the dinar but they improved in 1992 because of increased government expenditure on salaries, which received a 14 to 15 per cent raise.

With inflation arrested at four per cent, he said, average income increased by 10 per cent.

"However, that is not enough to compensate (government) employees for the erosion of their salaries in the last five years," the minister said.

Mr. Jardaneh said the only new tax the government would introduce is the sales tax which will replace the consumption tax.

The tax, he said, will have a neutral effect on local revenue at its first stage of implementation and would not affect prices.

As part of the tax reform programme, the tax will eventually develop into a value added tax (VAT), eliminating the additional tax and limiting taxes in the country to income tax, customs fees and the VAT.

The minister said the government would work to maintain the stability of prices, arresting inflation at four per cent and keeping subsidies to basic commodities.

Pointing to the economic and social dimensions of unemployment, Sharif Zeid said the government would proceed with its educational development programme which aims at gearing education towards meeting the labour market demand. He said the government would continue to provide support for professional rehabilitation programmes, adding that the Development and Employment Fund would focus its efforts on productive investments.

He also said more attention would be given to the agricultural sector and announced plans to establish a holding company for the development of the countryside. He said the company would involve the private and public sectors.

The prime minister cited an increased investment activities in the Kingdom in 1992, stating that 4,500 new local and nine foreign companies with a capital of JD 160 million, and joint ventures with Japan and India with a capital of JD 60 million sprung up last year.

Responding to deputies' severe criticism of government bureaucracy, Sharif Zeid said the success of the administrative reform programme would take time to manifest itself, and assessment of the effort should be focused on the "firmness of the political will" to carry it out.

Deputies had charged that government bureaucracy was plagued with nepotism, inefficiency and abuse of office.

Mr. Rabin says Israel would not discuss details until Syria spells out what it means by peace. Israel wants open borders and full diplomatic relations.

The radio commentary was especially critical of Mr. Rabin's decision to expel 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon.

The radio called on the international community to intervene to help the evictees.

"The world must stop Israel from committing more crimes in the occupied lands," the radio said.

Israel's housing minister said Tuesday the Israeli army could withdraw the Golan Heights as part of a peace agreement with Syria.

Bat Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said Israel would maintain control of Jewish settlements on the Heights.

"A situation is possible where Israeli settlements will be on the Heights under Israeli control while the Israeli army goes down of the Heights," he told reporters.

About 15,000 Jewish settlers and 18,000 Druze live on the Golan Heights.

Recent Israeli reports said that the Jewish state was preparing a contingency plan to pull back troops about 10 kilometres on the Golan Heights.

Opposition politicians in Israel revealed the plan, saying they feared it could lead to a full withdrawal from the territory.

In a political commentary, Syrian radio said there would be no peace without restoration of "all parts of occupied Golan" and other occupied Arab territories.

"Syria has rejected the idea of partial Israeli withdrawal in the past and will refuse all future attempts in that direction," the radio said.

Mr. Rabin has said he would agree to partial withdrawal of forces in exchange for peace. But

"I will work towards righting any wrong in government bureaucracy," the prime minister said, pointing to measures the government has taken to improve the performance of its various organs in order to facilitate the needs of citizens.

Sharif Zeid said he did not yet have "the chance to study points raised on the spending of the allocations of the National Aid Fund and it is our duty to give the subject the attention it warrants in a responsible and objective manner."

In its report, the House Finance Committee had accused the minister of social development of favouritism in earmarking the fund's allocations. It claimed the minister had channelled more funds into his home governorate, Mafrqa, and abused office to further his personal electoral ambitions.

Dr. Akailah reiterated the charge Wednesday and claimed the minister had manipulated facts and figures about poverty rates in various parts of the Kingdom to "mislead the prime minister, the cabinet and deputies and hide the truth" to Mafrqa more than its fair share of assistance.

He claimed the minister exceeded his mandate by abolishing the role of the fund's president, "manipulating figures and (using) deception to spend the fund's money" according to the charge.

Dr. Akailah said the minister's alleged act requires "administrative and legal investigation," and demanded that a committee be set up to investigate the case. He also asked that minister of finance responds to the charge.

The scientific criterion for spending the fund's allocations (in various governorates) is the rate of poverty in each governorate," Mr. Jardaneh replied. "That could be decided through studying the situation by specialised people," he said, without trying to explicitly defend the minister of social development.

Claiming that Dr. Akailah's charge was motivated by "personal grudges," Minister of Social Development Amin Mashagbeh said he managed the fund's allocations in accordance with the law and the rates of poverty in various governorates.

He denied charges of favouritism in handling the fund's allocations and asserted the accusation was instigated by "attempts to settle scores."

Dr. Mashagbeh said Dr. Akailah violated "parliamentary norms by not meeting with him and asking for figures about the fund's allocations."

And even though Sharif Zeid and Mr. Jardaneh promised a positive response to deputies' demands regarding agriculture, dams, controlling government expenditure and effective handling of foreign debts, Mr. Jardaneh said parliamentarians contradicted themselves by urging more government expenditure on salaries and reducing the budget deficit.

"Achieving any of these demands will be at the expense of the other," he said.

Mr. Jardaneh said the government's overall financial, monetary and economic policies were effective, citing reduced indebtedness, and deficit and increased revenue as evidence.

While admitting that the balance of trade was somewhat unsatisfactory due to the rise of imports, Mr. Jardaneh pointed out that capital expenditure in 1992 increased by 26 per cent over 1991.

Both the prime minister and Mr. Jardaneh pledged a more effective implementation of capital expenditure projects by various government ministries and pointed to instructions issued to ministries by Sharif Zeid to accelerate the process of preparing tenders which is responsible for the delay.

Mr. Jardaneh said the government was willing to present the policies of the economic reform programme to the House if the Finance Committee demands that, adding that the Ministry of Finance "has never withheld information about the programme from deputies."

The Muslim Brotherhood Bloc and other parliamentarians had said the House was kept in the dark on the economic reform programme and demanded the government publicise its agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

The minister countered deputies' claims that the economic reform programme was not leading to its declared end, saying the "positive" performance of the economy would not have been possible had the government not adhered to the programme.

He said the success of the programme requires removal of structural imbalances and restoring confidence to what he called "the free market" Jordanian economy.

## 11 deputies cast negative votes

(Continued from page 1)

What came as a surprise, however, was the split vote among the Brotherhood deputies.

The opposing group led by Deputy Mohammad Abu Faris only captured seven of the 22-member bloc. The pro-budget group led by Tafleeh Deputy Abdullah Akailah, who is chairman of the Finance Committee of the House, won the other 15 Brotherhood deputies.

Those deputies who opposed the budget argued that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank regulations, which Jordan is following, were ruining the Kingdom's independence.

Amman Deputy Laith Shbeilat called Jordan's agreement with the IMF a "noose around the Jordanian people's neck." Ex-

pressing the position of the hard-core Islamists, he said that the "IMF-imposed regulations were partly to blame for social and economic ills in Jordan."

But not all deputies, among them the majority of Islamists, shared this feeling. Taking Jordan's cooperation with the IMF as a given, Islamist Deputy Fuad Khalafat said, "Now that (accepting) the IMF-prescribed economic adjustment programme has become a fate and destiny for us, we should now pool our efforts."

Those who voted against the budget were: Brotherhood deputies Mohammad Abu Faris, Daoud Kojak, Abdul Minem Abu Zani, Hammam Saeed, Ahmad Kofahee, Ibrahim Khreisat and Hamzeh Mansour, Democratic Bloc members Faris Nabulsi, Mansour Murad and Bassam Haddadin and pan-Arab deputy Hussein Mujalli.

## Status of detainees unclear

(Continued from page 1)

ing to eyewitnesses. The witnesses, some of whom were refused entry to Egypt at the Red Sea ferry crossing from Jordan at Nuweibeh, say that those who were allowed in were subjected to rigorous interrogation, particularly on "links with Iraq."

Shortly after the Gulf war in 1991, the Egyptian government cancelled a visa waiver and ruled that Jordanian passport holders travelling to Egypt should obtain prior visas. Intervention from the Jordanian government prompted the Cairo drop this condition soon afterwards.

The Cairo government, which led the Arab camp in the Western-led coalition which fought Iraq in the Gulf war over Kuwait in 1991, has repeatedly accused Baghdad of sending "agents" to carry out sabotage in Egypt.

"In Egyptian eyes any Jordanian, Sudanese, Yemeni or Palestinian who has travelled to Iraq during or after the Gulf crisis becomes an im-

mediate security suspect," said one of the sources. "There are hundreds of Sudanese and Yemenis held in Egypt on similar grounds as the Jordanian passport-holders."

Egyptian diplomatic sources have denied that there is a standing policy of denying entry to Jordanians who have travelled to Iraq.

"No-one is detained for travelling to Iraq," said one Egyptian diplomat. "No arrest or detention is made unless there is strong ground for suspicion on security grounds or for violation of Egyptian laws."

The speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Abdul Latif Arabiyat, recently sent a formal letter to Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber urging him to look into the matter through diplomatic channels.

"We have not heard anything in return," said Deputy Fakhri Kawa, who launched a campaign in mid-1992 to free the prisoners and put an end to the harassment of Jordanian travellers to Iraq.

## U.S., allies prepare Iraq ultimatum

(Continued from page 1)

tions, said an informed Western diplomatic source who insisted on anonymity. And yet, Mr. Mitchell said after his meeting with President Bush at the White House that "no decision has been made with respect to any of the options available to the president."

"The president indicated he is consulting with our allies, has made no decision, is weighing all options," Mr. Mitchell said.

Speaker Foley said the Iraqi surface-to-air missiles pose a potential threat to U.S. aircraft. "I think the president is concerned about the situation with American fliers who are being asked to enforce the no-fly zone

in the area." Any ultimatum would be based on U.N. Security Council resolutions that authorise all necessary means to ensure Iraq's enemies are not subjected to abuses by Iraq, said two officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said "we do not intend to tolerate continued violations" of the United Nations Resolutions imposed on Iraq after the Gulf war.

"We don't want to speculate on what action we might take," he said.

President Saddam addressed his troops Wednesday and declared they are ready to defend Iraq.

## Water-colours bring light to the winter of Riwak

By Izzat Wabbeh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An appropriate setting for Salam Kanaan's delicate water-colours is provided by the sturdy, solid rooms of Riwak Al Balkaa, the art gallery in Fuhais.

The restored old house, with its stone walls and arched doorways and ceilings, is an austere background for the serene, bright, light-spirited paintings of the slight-build young man who professes a life-time dedication to painting, "at the expense of everything else."

A Yarmouk University graduate, where he learned "how to draw and paint in oil," Mr. Kanaan now lives in France, having attained a dream that so many artists before him have strived to make come true: live and work in the city of light, Paris.

The artist confesses drawing inspiration from "the sunshine on the walls, the steps, streets, trees of the countryside, from children running and beautiful women working in the houses, from the skies of Jordan, all charming in their simplicity, feed forever the same in my eyes."

And these sources of inspiration are indeed present in his works: restored stone walls of the Riwak gallery itself and a bedouin woman with eyes closed in pious prayer create a pleasant contrast of colour and theme; an olive green orchard in the background and a yellowish green field of wheat blown by the wind in wide sweeping swirls form another contrast, this time within the same canvas.

Landscapes and human portraits mix together in harmony creating a feeling of peaceful serenity, of life lived at a slow pace, of a non-hostile nature which supports life rather than antagonising it.

A vibrant pink sunset on a body of water, a group of palm trees bearing fruit against the background of a blue sea, and the water of the Riwak Jordan show both the interest in and the fascination with Aqaba and the beautiful places of the artist's native country.

Urban and rural landscape is present in the contours of houses from Husn, Anu nan, Fuhais, projected against a cloudy skies.

The ancestors' heritage is taking its pride of place with beautiful embroideries on the women's robes, traditional local pottery, the coffee-grinder, the men's beards and mosque profiles against a charged background.

The colours are of a wide range: from dark greens, reds and blues to straw yellows, ochres and pinks, a complete spectrum is present.



Jugs in the shadow of a tree, one Salam Kanaan's water-colours on display at Riwak Al Balkaa Gallery in Fuhais

As for choosing the water colours, Mr. Kanaan said he could best capture the beauty of Jordan's landscape by using them, as "I found I could portray the world around me as I see it easily through this medium."

The beautiful canvases with dexterously drawn lines confirm an artist conversant with his craft, practiced since "I was five." The result is aesthetically impressive to the eye and shows that the painter has masterfully combined the sensitivity of watercolour technique with the detail of oil painting.

The Ministry of Tourism is sponsoring the printing of a catalogue of Mr. Kanaan's most recent water-colours which will be issued in May in Copenhagen, where the artist will hold an exhibition. But before that, in February, he will have an exhibition in Paris and after that "well, back to my studies."

One hope for Jordan, Mr. Kanaan says, is "to see a new generation of children, a generation which is aesthetically aware, being given the opportunity to know about and to love art."

One sure way to help that happen is to introduce those children, and not only them, to the art of Mr. Kanaan, who is, after all, not so old himself.

The exhibition will be inaugurated on Thursday, Jan. 7, by Ministry of Tourism Secretary-General Nassef Attallah at 4 p.m. Mr. Kanaan's art will be on display until Jan. 15, 1993.

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## Paper reports Israel-Syria talks

(Continued from page 1)

Dec. 16. Syria demands Israel fully withdraw from the occupied Golan Heights. Israel says some adjustments are possible on the plateau but demands Syria agree to full peace before it will discuss details.

Syria Tuesday repeated its stance.

Recent Israeli reports said that the Jewish state was preparing a contingency plan to pull back troops about 10 kilometres on the Golan Heights.

Opposition politicians in Israel revealed the plan, saying they feared it could lead to a full withdrawal from the territory.

In a political commentary, Syrian radio said there would be no peace without restoration of "all parts of occupied Golan" and other occupied Arab territories.

"Syria has rejected the idea of partial Israeli withdrawal in the past and will refuse all future attempts in that direction," the radio said.

Mr. Rabin has said he would agree to partial withdrawal of forces in exchange for peace. But

Mr. Rabin says Israel would not discuss details until Syria spells out what it means by peace. Israel wants open borders and full diplomatic relations.

The radio commentary was especially critical of Mr. Rabin's decision to expel 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon.

The radio called on the international community to intervene to help the evictees.

"The world must stop Israel from committing more crimes in the occupied lands," the radio said.

Israel's housing minister said Tuesday the Israeli army could withdraw the Golan Heights as part of a peace agreement with Syria.

Bat Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said Israel would maintain control of Jewish settlements on the Heights.

"A situation is possible where Israeli settlements will be on the Heights under Israeli control while the Israeli army goes down of the Heights," he told reporters.

About 15,000 Jewish settlers and 18,000 Druze live on the Golan Heights.

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## JBF reschedules 1st Division Basketball Championship

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) has set a new date — Jan. 12 — for the second and final round of the 1992 First Division Basketball Championship as most players are currently preoccupied with their tawjihi or university exams.

The second round matches had been set to begin on Jan. 8 but the recently appointed JBF — now headed by Fadi Ghandour — has decided to reschedule the matches, with the final match set for Jan. 26.

The new JBF board which includes Ali Bilbeisi, Faisal Mahas Rizeq Al Masri, Manal Hamzeh, Qasem Al Abed, Sa'ad Abu Jaber and Mohammad Qadri in addition to representatives of the top two first division teams, Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxy, and the second division champion Al Wifaq, is set to regroup the national teams as soon as possible in preparation for upcoming regional competitions.

"We hope to finish the 1992 championship now underway by the end of the month so as to draw up the 1993 schedule which will encompass participation in the Youth's Asian Basketball Championship due to be held April 21-26 and the Men's Asian Championship in September," JBF spokesman Rizeq Al Masri told the Jordan Times.

The former JBF had named the under-22 and the women's national teams and both teams are to begin training this month.

### Ahli leads standings

As the second round of the championship begins Tuesday, Al Ahli leads the standings with 14 points in the overall standings after their 68-65 win over titleholders, Al Orthodoxy, in the final match of the first round.

The pressure now is on Al Orthodoxy who must beat Al Ahli in the second round in order to have a deciding match to determine the season's champion.

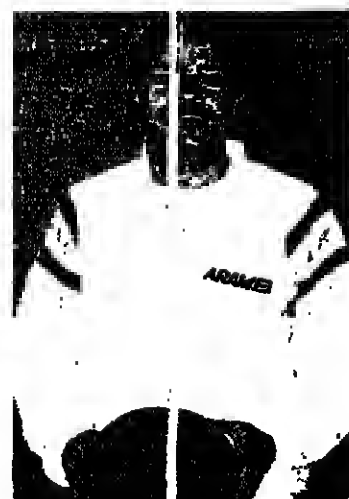
Murad Barakat, probably the country's and Al Orthodoxy's most experienced player, will carry the heavy burden of securing his team's win. Al Orthodoxy's Hital Barakat, Muntaser Abul-Tayyeb and Jihad Saliba are bound to face tough competition from their all-time rivals who will try to win back the title they won in 1990.

Al Ahli's Marwan Ma'touq, Naser Bushnaq, Samir Murqus, Youssef Zaghoul and teammates will seek to beat Al Orthodoxy and win the title, avoiding a third deciding match.

Meanwhile Al Jazireh's promising players-Ghaith Ennabi, Anwar Hadad, and Youssef Abu Baker — will seek to overcome any competition from Al Hussein and Al Jalil and be content with the third place standing this season.

Last season's third-placed Al Jalil, who pulled out of their match against Al Watani in the first round and are consequently placed sixth, will however strive to have an advanced standing too.

Al Hussein and Al Watani will

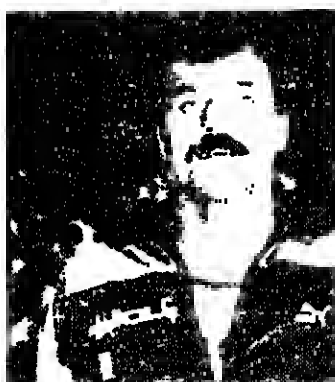


Marwan Ma'touq

probably have a hard time moving up their usual fifth and sixth-placed standing, while Homentmen, who had a definite chance of defeating Al Watani and nearly beat Al Jalil in Irbid, will have a hard time trying to score three wins to avoid relegation. Al Abbasi, who lost all their matches, have already been relegated unless they beat 15 teams — which is very unlikely.

### Standings after 1st round

Team	W	L	SF	SA	PTS
Al Ahli	7	—	719	376	14
Al Orthodoxy	6	1	910	468	13
Al Jazireh	4	3	574	539	11
Al Hussein	4	3	609	602	11
Al Watani	3	4	425	570	10
Al Jalil	3	4	487	493	9
Homentmen	1	6	476	748	8
Al Abbasi	—	7	372	776	7



Murad Barakat



Ghaith Ennabi

## Barkley named NBA player of the month

NEW YORK (AP) — Charles Barkley, who led the Phoenix Suns on a franchise-record 14-game winning streak last month, was named the NBA's player of the month for December Tuesday.

While Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal was chosen rookie of the month for a second straight time, Barkley, the only player in the NBA to rank among the League's top five in both scoring (26.1 points per game) and rebounding (13.3), helped the Suns compile an NBA-best 21-4 record by the end of December. During the month, he averaged 25 points, 12.8 rebounds and 4.9 assists per game.

Barkley also had two triple-doubles during the month. On Dec. 9, he had 23 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists in a 110-101 victory at Charlotte, and on Dec. 30, he had 25 points, 17 rebounds and 10 assists in a 133-110 home win over Houston.

In earning rookie of the month honors again, O'Neal averaged 20.6 points, 14.3 rebounds and 4.46 blocked shots per game. The Orlando Magic center beat out Alonzo Mourning of the Charlotte Hornets for the honor. O'Neal had his biggest game of the month Dec. 31, scoring 23 points and grabbing a team-record 23 rebounds in a 96-93 loss to the Los Angeles Lakers. He



Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal (centre) grabs a rebound

also had 28 points, 10 rebounds and five blocks in a 101-98 win over Utah Dec. 22.

### Lakers beat Bulls

The Los Angeles Lakers shut Michael Jordan down when it counted and snapped the defending champion Chicago Bulls' win streak at seven with a 91-88 victory Tuesday.

James Worthy, who scored 21 points including two free throws that put the Lakers ahead to stay, credited coach Randy Pfund's

strategy of putting in four forwards and a guard at crunch time for stopping Jordan.

"We all felt we could switch and create some discomfort for Michael," said Worthy.

Jordan finished with 36 points, but missed some key shots including a couple of three-pointers in the final seconds.

The game was only the Lakers' third win in the last 10 games and just Chicago's fourth loss at home this season.

In a battle of the two teams hoping to challenge the Bulls in

the Eastern Conference, the Atlantic Division-leading New York Knicks held the Cleveland Cavaliers to only three field goals in the fourth quarter and came back from an 80-70 deficit for a 95-91 victory.

Charles Smith scored 22 points, Patrick Ewing added 21 points and 13 rebounds and Anthony Mason had 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Knicks.

Brad Daugherty scored 21 and Mark Price added 19 as the Cavaliers, second in the Bulls in the Central Division, lost for only the second time in 12 games.

Point guard Doc Rivers came off the bench in the fourth quarter and stabilised the Knicks, making a key steal off Price. He revealed after the game, his first since he suffered a partially dislocated shoulder on December 26, that he still could not shoot a jump shot because of the shoulder.

In Houston, Charles Barkley scored 29 points and Danny Ainge added 21 as the Phoenix Suns edged the Rockets 106-104.

The Suns won for the 15th time in 16 games and improved their league-leading record to 22-5.

Hakeem Olajuwon collected 29 points and 17 rebounds for the Rockets, losses of five successive games.

### SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Granite chosen for 1994 Winter Olympics medalists

OSLO (AP) — Medalists at the 1994 Winter Olympics reportedly will end up with a rock hanging around their necks. Organisers have chosen Norwegian granite decorated with gold, silver and bronze for the medals awarded at the Winter Games in Lillehammer, an Oslo newspaper said. The paper, Dagbladet, said the 115 slabs of stone would be symbolic of the rocky southern Norwegian terrain. They will be designed by Norwegian artist Ingjerd Hanevold and contain enough precious metal — six grams for the gold — to satisfy International Olympic Committee requirements.

#### Rosset out, Lendl doubtful for Australian Open

MELBOURNE (AP) — Olympic tennis champion Marc Rosset has pulled out of the Australian Open and Ivan Lendl appears doubtful, tournament organisers said Wednesday. Tournament director Colin Stubs said Rosset, of Switzerland, pulled out with a throat infection that forced him to withdraw from the Qatar Open this week. The Australian Open begins Jan. 18 at Melbourne's National Tennis Centre. Lendl has been bothered by a groin injury that has forced him to miss practice time in preparing for the first Grand Slam tournament of the year.



Nigel Mansell showed he will be a formidable force in this year's IndyCar World Series when he shattered the track record in his first test session, with the Newman-Haas team at the Phoenix Firebird Raceway.

Mansell, who became the first reigning Formula One world champion to switch from Grand Prix racing to Indycars said: "Obviously, I am delighted not only to go so quickly but also to make such a good start with my new team."

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JANUARY 8, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The full moon in cancer (moonchild) enlarges the scope of your activities where your own household is concerned.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have some communications at or from a distance or with those of varied standpoints to your own that require your undivided attention.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Various matters connected with financial and other practical affairs can claim today's attention and tonight an expert should be sought to help you solve them.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever has to do with money matters can be your best way to make the headway that is vital to a consummation of your practical expression.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Association matters should head the list of your activities this day so contact outsiders with whom you have some important dealings.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If you tackle that job facing you in a more alert and enthusiastic fashion, you find you now will get the best of results quickly.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A day to make preparations for an interesting evening as you most prefer during the daytime, then tonight have yourself a thoroughly good time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think in terms of what you can do now that will enhance and

### GOVERN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH  
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#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠KQ732 ♠AQJ54 ♣63 ♣8  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
? — Forcing  
What do you bid now?  
Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AJ854 ♠7652 ♣93 ♣72  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ DBI ?  
What action do you take?  
Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠72 ♠Q83 ♠Q62 ♣43  
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?  
Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠6 ♠AKQ54 ♠AQJ854 ♠A  
What is your opening bid?  
Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠5 ♠AKJ98 ♠AJ6 ♣9852  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass  
What do you bid now?  
Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠83 ♠AKJ76 ♠954 ♠AJ8  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JANUARY 7, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Arguments or differences of opinion, no matter how carefully conducted, could easily cause an estrangement from one who really means a great deal to you. Remain cool, calm and collected.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You do not see why some obligations should be staring you in the face but you have accepted them so handle them in as conscientious a manner as you can.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You now find that a partner is just as stubborn in wanting own way as you do so don't make a point but wait until a time when you are both more flexible.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think over the various means by which you will be able to do whatever tasks face you in a calm and unperturbed fashion and you make considerable headway.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You think that by spending more money you will be able to have pleasures and amusements you want but simple, inexpensive joys are best.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your home can be topsy turvy today so think up some way to get matters straightened out so that your family will feel less pressured by situations.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Use more than average care while driving or walking since accidents are likely to be prevalent now and you need to make sure you watch others movements.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You would be sensible now to commit yourself to expenses because there are confused factors involved that could lose you some desired revenue.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You feel pretty frustrated in gaining what you have expected to bring into your personal orbit now so think twice before deciding what you want.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think over and about whatever will help you to be relieved of some onerous restrictions but do so in a calm and not in an impulsive manner.

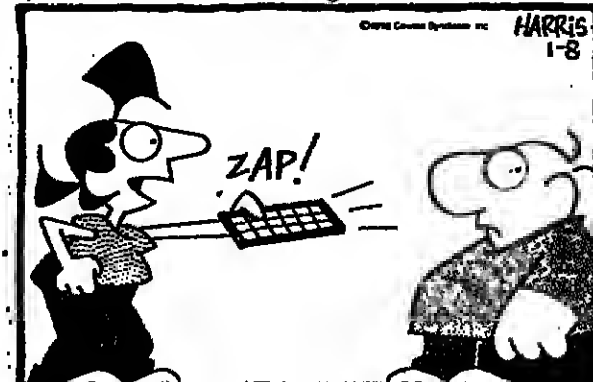
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Starting this period with too demanding an attitude that you get what you want could push attaining such aims farther away from you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) If you must be in the presence of influential or prominent persons today or tonight make sure that you act with considerable restraint, patience.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You need to proceed slowly and cautiously towards that new course of action and expanding plan that appeals to you or you are taken for a ride.

### THE BETTER HALF.

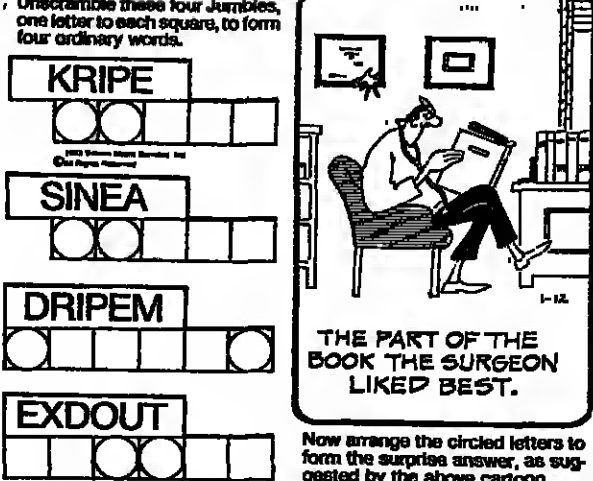
By Harris



"I replaced 'play, pause and rewind' with 'kiss, hug and talk to me!'"

### JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE FOUR JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

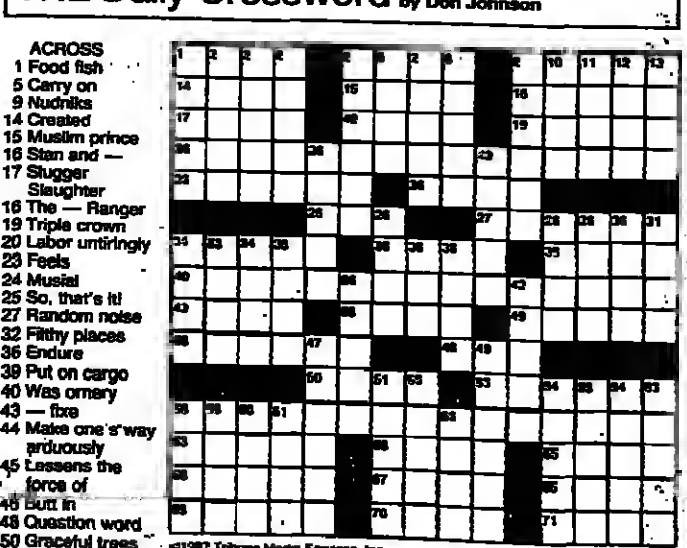


Print answer here: THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: PERKY AWASH OBLIGE SEAMAN

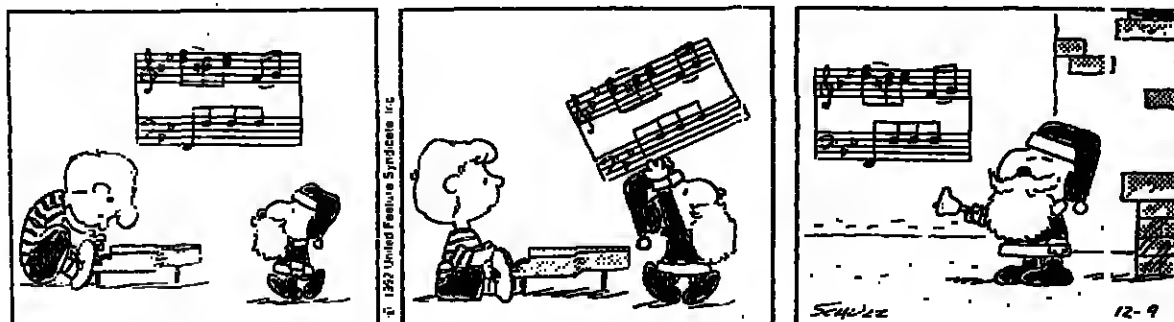
Answer: What the golf addict set aside for a rainy day—HIS WORK

### THE Daily Crossword by Don Johnson



- ACROSS  
1 Food fish  
9 Carry on  
10 Nudists  
14 Created  
15 Muslim prince  
16 Stan and —  
17 Shaggy  
18 The — Ranger  
19 Triple crown  
20 Labor unfairly  
23 Feels  
24 Musical  
25 So, there it is  
27 Random noise  
32 Fifty places  
36 Endure  
38 Put on cargo  
40 Was ornery  
43 — fice  
44 Make one's way  
45 Lessens the  
46 But in  
48 Question word  
50 Grappling trees  
53 Prying  
54 Mistake  
58 Be ferocious  
63 Sea arm  
64 Scottish wear  
65 Feast  
66 Metric unit  
67 Gaelic  
68 Famous lioness  
69 Easman  
70 Pump  
71 Virginia denos  
DOWN  
1 Pencil ducis  
2 Light boat  
3 Ornament  
4 Office furniture  
5 Take pleasure in  
6 Frenzied  
7 Dressed to  
8 —  
9 Play the tab  
10 Director Kazan  
11 Eastern European  
12 Jade  
13 Scorch  
21 Rent  
22 Moistest meat  
25 — breve  
28 — meter  
29 Upright  
30 Run in neutral  
31 Passing grades  
32 Humane, kindly  
33 "There is a — in the affairs..."  
34 Chilled  
35 Supplemented  
36 "with out"  
37 Assistance  
38 Take an oblique course  
41 Rescued  
42 Cancel  
47 Missive  
48 Warmred  
49 Hams for  
50 Seak in an  
51 Spry  
52 Bagpipe sound  
53 Passenger  
54 Spry  
55 Upright  
57 Of a region  
58 Seek in an indirect way  
59 Toward center  
60 Singer Campbell  
61 Adored one  
62 Otherwise

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n' Jeff









## China dismisses hopes of Hong Kong compromise

HONG KONG (R) — China Wednesday dismissed speculation of a compromise over Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten's democratic reform proposals, vowing to reject even any watered-down package produced by the colony's legislature.

Mr. Patten and his deputy Sir David Ford expressed hope this week that Peking would accept the verdict of Hong Kong's legislative council on political reform later this year. Their comments triggered a brief stock market rally.

But a senior Chinese official daily rejected any compromise to end the Sino-British row over Hong Kong's future. He repeated Peking's hardline that anything which did not conform to the basic law, the territory's constitution after it returns to China in 1997, was out of the question.

"We cannot accept any compromise package which does not converge with the basic law or any amended package approved by the legislative council under the control of the Hong Kong British authorities," said Zheng Guoxiong, a vice-director of Xinhua news agency's Hong Kong branch.

Asked about remarks made Monday by Mr. Ford, who is

colonial chief secretary, Mr. Zheng said: "I think this comment is based completely on a wrong estimation of the situation by the Hong Kong-British authorities. It is also misleading to the public."

Mr. Zheng's comments, reported by the Peking-controlled daily Wen Wei Po Wednesday, carry official weight as Xinhua acts as China's de facto consulate in Hong Kong.

Daily Chinese broadsides since Mr. Patten announced his proposals last October have terrified Hong Kong's sensitive business community. But hopes have lingered that the legislative council might dilute Mr. Patten's proposals so much when it debates them in February that China might back off.

An interview Mr. Patten gave to a British newspaper fuelled the optimism. Asked by the London Evening Standard whether there was room for compromise, he said: "It's perfectly possible...I hope that the proposals we come up with eventually are regarded as acceptable by the present sovereign power (Britain) and the future sovereign power (China)." Mr. Patten has made this point before but with investors clatching at straws. It was enough to

push the Hang Seng index up 110.23 points to 5,548.03 Tuesday. Sobriety returned Wednesday and the index closed up a more modest 38.64 points.

Mr. Patten denied Wednesday he had made any policy change but predicted a long haul for his proposals when they go to the legislative council (Legco).

"It's for Legco to consider them, either to reject them or to accept them, or amend them and I guess there'll be a long debate and I'm sure Legco will do what is in the best interests of Hong Kong," he told reporters.

China used its local media mouthpieces to launch its fiercest attack since it lashed British-controlled conglomerate Jardine Matheson last month.

Wen Wei Po said Mr. Ford's comments were part of a British plot to use what it called the "rubber stamp" legislature in Hong Kong to present China with a fait accompli.

While the legislative council was once undoubtedly a rubber stamp, it has changed radically since 18 of its 60 members were directly elected for the first time in 1991. Analysts say that with pro-business legislators deeply worried by the Sino-British dispute, Mr. Patten's proposals are by no means assured of approval.

## 'Toxic' ship leaves Tokai after unloading

TOKAI, Japan (R) — Japan's plutonium-carrying freighter left Wednesday after depositing its highly toxic load, ending a five-month sea voyage that put the country's ambitious nuclear programme under the spotlight.

Nuclear industry officials applauded as four large trucks left the dockyard with the last of the 17 tonnes of plutonium oxide bound for a nearby processing facility.

"There it will be converted from the powder into pellet form for injection into metal rods to be used at Monju, a prototype fast breeder reactor (FBR) in western Japan, in late 1994."

"The operation went very smoothly," said a relieved-looking Hiroshi Oishi, vice-president of the Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation, a governmental firm running Japan's plutonium programme.

"I was nervous but I feel relieved now," he told a news conference just before the Akatsuki Maru left.

Officials refused to disclose the next destination of the specially-built ship that arrived in Tokai Tuesday loaded with plutonium — one tonne of it fissile or weapons-grade — from a French reprocessing plant.

Japanese news reports said it was headed for Tokyo's port of Yokohama, where it would remain for one month before being returned to its owners, a British nuclear firm.

The world's biggest shipment of the toxic material — which has a half-life of 24,000 years — came under fire from environmentalists because it was carried out under



Workers unload a plutonium container from Japanese freighter Akatsuki Maru at Tokai late Tuesday (AFP photo)

an official cloak of secrecy. Japanese authorities would not make public the shipment's route for security reasons.

The Greenpeace environmental group tailed the Akatsuki Maru by ship past the southern tip of Africa. Making its whereabouts known to the world and prompting protests from countries that lay along its route.

"To be frank, it was unpleasant," said Akatsuki Maru crewman Hiroshi Taniyama of the Greenpeace pursuit vessel. "When it finally went away I felt I had been relieved of heavy contamination."

Japanese leaders, embarrassed by the international publicity given to the secret shipment, said Tuesday the government would reveal more information in the future.

The next shipment, one of dozens planned to move 30 tonnes of plutonium from Europe to Japan over the next 20 years, is likely to take place in three to four years.

Four of Japan's five mass-circulation dailies took the government to task Wednesday for keeping secret many details of its plutonium shipment project.

"Is the Akatsuki Maru a treasure ship bearing plentiful energy supplies or a ship of gloom that will push the world into an abyss of nuclear proliferation?" asked the Asahi Shimbun.

"Other countries of the world will not rest assured by our mere promises to never produce nuclear weapons," it said, calling on Japan to open up its FBR programme to international participation and inspection.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Pakistan withdraws controversial decree

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Pakistani government, bowing to widespread protest, Tuesday formally withdrew a controversial decree that had curtailed the powers of courts. The National Assembly (lower house of parliament) passed a government-sponsored amended bill restoring the powers of provincial high courts to grant bail to people facing trial before special anti-terrorist courts. The controversial presidential ordinance, issued last month, had barred the high courts from hearing bail petitions from such people, in the first major curtailment of their powers since martial law was lifted in 1986. "This ordinance curtailed the powers of the courts to some extent so we have withdrawn it," Law Minister Abdul Ghafoor told the assembly. "When the people expressed their reservations...we immediately withdrew it without making it an ego issue." The new bill must also be passed by the senate (upper house) to make the ordinance ineffective, legal sources said.

### U.N. launches food plan in Mozambique

ROME (R) — The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said Tuesday it was launching a \$6 million operation to help demobilise tens of thousands of Mozambique troops and rebels in the South-East African country. Under an October 1992 peace accord reached in Rome, some 62,000 troops and 20,000 rebels will hand in their arms to the U.N. at 49 assembly and feeding points. The WFP plan aims to provide them and their families with rations for at least six months. Diplomats say the distribution of food in the drought-hit country is a vital incentive to bring fighters into the demobilisation points. Last year's peace accord ended a 16-year civil war which has raged since the country's independence from Portugal.

### Princess Margaret hospitalised

LONDON (AP) — Princess Margaret, the younger sister of Queen Elizabeth II, spent her third day in a London hospital with pneumonia, Buckingham Palace said Tuesday. The palace said Princess Margaret, 62, was taken to London's King Edward VII hospital Sunday as a precautionary measure and is expected to remain for one or two more days. Her son, Viscount Linley, 31, paid a brief visit and the palace said his daughter, Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, 28, was in close touch. Princess Margaret's ex-husband, Lord Snowdon, had also "sent his best wishes," said a palace spokesman. The princess, who was reportedly taken ill while staying with friends outside London, was last seen in public on Christmas Day when she attended church at Sandringham with the queen and other members of the royal family.

### 15-year-old shoots parents, kills self

MONTPELLIER, France (AP) — A 15-year-old girl fatally shot her parents and turned the rifle on herself after all three signed a suicide note, cleaned house and defrosted their refrigerator, police said Tuesday. The three bodies, found by police a day earlier, lay clothed on a bed at the family home in Fontaines, near this southwestern French city. Each room appeared carefully arranged, with no sign of a struggle. Investigators said Sybille Odier used a 22-gauge shotgun to shoot her father, 40-year-old Jean Odier, an unemployed computer programmer, and her mother Martine, a 38-year-old teacher, in the head before killing herself, police said. The exact date of the deaths was unclear. The gun lay beside Sybille, said police, who found the bodies after they were notified by a cousin in Toulon who on Monday received a suicide note typed and signed by all three family members. The note sent Dec. 28 was titled "Testament" and asked "that our ashes be dispersed in the sea." The cousin, Regis Odier, said the one-page letter included a list of possessions but did not mention any reason for the deaths.

### Britain rejects Argentina's latest claim

LONDON (AP) — Britain Tuesday firmly rejected Argentina's latest claim to the Falkland Islands. A Foreign Office statement issued ahead of Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's four-day visit to Buenos Aires starting Wednesday said there was "no doubt" about Britain's sovereignty over the islands. "The United Kingdom is committed to defending the right of the Falkland Islanders to live under a government of their own choosing and the islanders have made it abundantly clear they wish to remain British and under British jurisdiction," the statement said. The Foreign Office statement followed President Carlos Menem's reiteration of Argentina's claim to the islands in a New Year speech. Britain has ruled the South Atlantic archipelago as a colony since 1833, but Argentina claims it inherited them upon declaring independence from Spain in 1816. Argentine military forces invaded the Falklands in April 1982 and were repelled by a British task force after a 74-day war. Mr. Menem agreed to set aside the issue of sovereignty before the restoration of diplomatic ties with Britain in February 1990.

### Yeltsin to visit India Jan. 27-29

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin will visit India from Jan. 27 to 29 to sign a friendship treaty. His press service said Wednesday. The treaty will replace the 1971 treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation between India and the former Soviet Union. Cooperation between Moscow and New Delhi has a strong military emphasis. India's defence system relies heavily on Russian supplies. Russia was reported last year to have extended to India a new defence credit of \$850 million. It also agreed to supply India with rocket engines in a \$250 million deal. The two sides are certain to discuss the method of payment for goods following the near-collapse of the old system which used a special rupee-rouble rate.

### Bystander, suspect killed in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (R) — Robbers armed with automatic rifles traded shots with police Wednesday in a running gun battle that killed a passer-by and a robber in one of Hong Kong's most crowded districts, police said. A police officer was wounded as the three suspects fleeing a jewellery store robbery sprayed bullets from a hijacked taxi and a getaway car. Panicky shoppers and schoolchildren took cover in shops and alleys in Mongkok. The robbers first opened fire at police as they emerged from the store, hitting a 38-year-old local woman in the head, police district commander Chris Glover said. One suspect attempting to escape in the getaway car was fatally wounded and died later in hospital. The other two successfully evaded police in the commandeered taxi which they later abandoned. The driver was unhurt. Police recovered two AK-47 rifles and at least one pistol from the suspect's car and the taxi. Police said the suspects took about 34 kilometres of gold valued at nearly \$400,000.

### Transkei mounts manhunt for killer of Japanese

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Police in South Africa's Transkei tribal homeland mounted a manhunt for the killers of a Japanese schoolteacher battered to death on a beach and a hotel group offered a 10,000 rand (\$3,300) reward for their capture. Transkei leader Major-General Bantu Holomisa said Wednesday police would work round the clock to track down the killer or killers of Yoshimura, 34, who was murdered Sunday. Ms. Yoshimura was found battered to death with a crowbar after leaving her hotel for a walk along the beach on South Africa's Indian Ocean coast. She was unmarried and had worked at the Japanese school in Johannesburg for three years. She planned to return to Japan in March.

### Protesters plan siege to stop Rao's visit

DHAKA (R) — Muslims angered by the police shooting of at least five protesters trying to march into India threatened Wednesday to besiege Dhaka airport to stop India's prime minister from attending a regional summit next week. They accused Prime Minister Narasimha Rao of being responsible for the destruction of the historic Babri Mosque in the north Indian town of Ayodhya by militant Hindus on Dec. 6. More than 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, died in India in unrest after the demolition of the mosque, which also sparked a wave of anti-Indian and anti-Hindu violence in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

## Bush offers precepts for committing troops

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush, in a farewell speech to the country's future military leaders, said Tuesday American armed forces should only be ordered into action when the mission is clear and there is a realistic plan for withdrawal.

Speaking at the U.S. military Academy at West Point, New York, where the likes of Robert E. Lee and Douglas MacArthur were schooled in the art of war, Mr. Bush also warned Tuesday that the United States must not become the world's policeman.

"In the wake of the cold war, in a world where we are the only remaining superpower, it is the role of the United States to marshal its moral and material resources, to promote a democratic peace," he said. "It is our responsibility, it is our opportunity to

lead. There is no one else."

Mr. Bush said there are times when the United States must act alone, citing the Panama invasion as a case where solo action was warranted to protect American lives and interests.

But he said the United States should act "in concert" with other countries whenever possible, persuading its allies to contribute to operations that are also in their interest militarily and economically.

The outgoing U.S. commander-in-chief mentioned the crisis in the Balkans only in passing. But his words seemed designed to caution President-elect Bill Clinton, who assumes office on Jan. 20, to look before he leaps into intervening in Bosnia.

## U.N. studies ultimatum against Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH (R) — The United Nations will consider a demand by the Phnom Penh government that the Khmer Rouge be expelled from the Cambodian peace process, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday, but he played down the possibility that the radical guerrilla group would be isolated.

An ultimatum by the Phnom Penh government had been passed to U.N. headquarters in New York, the spokesman told reporters.

"We have listened to (Prime Minister) Mr. Hun Sen and his frustration and comments...if the two co-chairmen and the security council decide to follow up, it will be their sovereign decision," he added.

But he played down the possibility of the Khmer Rouge being expelled.

"Our position has always been to keep the door open and it will remain open to everybody...we need everybody to participate in the peace process."

France and Indonesia are the two co-chairmen of the Paris international peace conference responsible for drafting the Cambodian peace accords that the Khmer Rouge and three other factions signed in October 1991.

On Tuesday Mr. Hun Sen accused United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) of lacking the courage to implement its mandate and proposed a Jan. 31 deadline for the Khmer Rouge to fully comply with the Paris peace agreement.

The Khmer Rouge have withdrawn from the U.N.-sponsored peace agreement and have refused to disarm their fighters and allow voter registration in areas under their control.

The ambitious \$2 billion U.N. peace plan is in deep trouble because of Khmer Rouge intransigence and a decision this week by Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk to stop cooperating with UNTAC and the Phnom Penh government.

## Angolan clashes spread

LISBON (R) — Clashes between Angolan government forces and rebels spread to the central city of Cuito Wednesday, the Angolan state news agency reported.

The Portuguese news agency LUSA quoted Angop as saying Cuito, the capital of Bie province in the central highlands, had been under intense artillery fire since dawn.

The government launched an offensive to recapture the north-western towns of Casito and Ndalandato last week and it crushed the rebels' light military and political presence during a battle in the southern town of Lubango Sunday.

Heavy fighting spread to the coastal cities of Benguela, Lobito and Namibe Monday.

Prime Minister Marcelino Moco said Monday that the former Portuguese colony was in a situation of "undeclared war."

But he added that the government still wanted to salvage its 1991 peace agreement with the rebels, which ended 16 years of civil war.

The peace accord started to break down after the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rejected its defeat by the ruling (MPLA) Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola in U.N.-supervised elections in September.

UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi said the MPLA had rigged the elections and retreated to Huambo, Angola's second city in the

central highlands, and his forces overran many towns in the interior.

Both sides blame each other for starting the latest clashes. Diplomats say they appear to form part of a government counter-strike.

During the civil war, which broke out upon independence from Portugal in 1975, the MPLA was backed by Cuba and the Soviet Union and UNITA received support from South Africa and the United States.

But since the peace agreement, external military support for the rival factions has been cut off.

Angolan state radio said clashes continued in the neighbouring coastal cities of Benguela and Lobito Wednesday.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said UNITA forces were shelling both towns and there was also street fighting.

Government forces controlled the centre of Benguela, but UNITA forces had penetrated the outskirts, while Lobito was divided with government forces controlling the port and city centre and UNITA the hills behind, it added.

Neither side has issued casualty figures for the latest clashes.

An official government report on Sunday's battle in Lubango said 41 people died there.

But UNITA said more than 200 of its members and their families were killed.

## Celebrated ballet star Rudolf Nureyev dies

PARIS (AP) — Rudolf Nureyev, the Soviet ballet dancer who stunned the world by defecting to the West and became the most celebrated classic dancer of his generation, died Wednesday in Paris, his doctor said. He was 54.

Mr. Nureyev, who was widely reported to be suffering from AIDS, died of "a cardiac complication, following a cruel illness," said Dr. Michel Canesi in a communiqué. He did not say where Mr. Nureyev died.

Andre Larquie, chief executive of the Paris Opera, of which Mr. Nureyev was dance director, said no decision had been made yet on a funeral date.

Mr. Nureyev was the Kirov Ballet's leading dancer in 1961 when he became the first Soviet star to defect. He went to captivate audiences around the world with his unparalleled stage presence, grace and athletic prowess for more than three decades. For much of that time, he and the late Dame Margot Fonteyn were a ballet duo in which both seemed more romantic and thrilling together than either did dancing with other partners.

His fame spread far beyond the



Rudolf Nureyev

world of dance. He was lionised as a celebrity, people wrote about his Beatle-style haircut, his eccentric clothes and his intensity about his art.

In the last few months of his life, Mr. Nureyev spoke only to his closest friends and kept his whereabouts a secret from the media.

Such discretion was a far cry from the all-enveloping publicity that surrounded the dancer from the moment he defected to the West in 1961 and followed him throughout his career.

## COLUMN

### 'Kid robbers' freed after eight years

LAGOS (R) — Twelve convicted armed robbers, whose death sentences were set aside because they were under-age, have been granted amnesties after eight years in jail, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) said. The so-called "kid robbers," arrested in 1984 for attacking the home of a Lagos trader, were sentenced to death four years later in a case that became a focus for human rights groups looking into alleged abuses under military rule. Armed robbery is punishable by firing squad in Nigeria. The 12, now in their 20s, were freed by Lagos Governor Michael Otedola, who last year commuted the death sentences to 10 years in jail because they were under 18 in 1984.

### Chimney-stuck 'Santa' detained

OCEANSIDE, California (R) — A soot-blackened man claiming to be Santa Claus was found dangling upside down from a chimney more than a week after Christmas, a local couple said Tuesday. Lawrence and Margie Beavers said they were awakened early Monday by a thud, which was followed by a cry for help. In their living room, they found 42-year-old Frank Morales dangling from their chimney with his head just centimetres from the floor. "I'd have been scared to death if it weren't so humorous," said Margie Beavers, 56. "I asked him what he was doing in my house. He said he was Santa Claus...so I asked him, 'where are my gifts?'" she added. Beavers and her husband Lawrence, 62, called police, who arrested Morales on suspicion of attempted burglary. "After telling the couple he was Santa Claus he explained to them he dove down their chimney to get away from a group of men who were chasing him. Neither story was very plausible," a police spokesman said.

### Johannesburg thieves hijack 'hot' vehicle

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Four thieves who hijacked a van in Johannesburg may have ended up with a hotter property than they bargained for. A spokesman for the owners of the van stolen in the city's Randburg area Tuesday said it was carrying dangerous radioactive material used in scientific tests. He warned the thieves against tampering with the cargo, in a stainless steel container shaped like a Mexican hat.

### Clinton invites old friend to Inauguration

LONDON (AP) — U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton has invited the former head porter at the Oxford College where he studied as a Rhodes scholar to his inauguration. Douglas Millin, 76, became friends with Mr. Clinton after he arrived at University College in October 1968. A University College spokeswoman Tuesday denied reports that there were hard feelings among college staff that the sole inaugural invitation had gone to a porter. "They are not in a tizzy. No-one expected to be invited and they are all delighted Douglas has been invited," said the spokeswoman. It was not known whether Mr. Millin would be going to Washington. Mr. Clinton accepted an honorary fellowship last month at University College, the oldest of the 20 colleges that make up Oxford University. He said he hoped to attend one feast a year with the 29 other honorary fellows and college staff.

### Philippine policemen fired over drugs

MANILA (R) — The Philippine government Tuesday sacked 42 policemen after they tested positive for marijuana and the prohibited drug methamphetamine hydrochloride or "ice". National police chief Raul Imperal told reporters he had ordered similar tests for 12,000 other policemen belonging to the Manila command and the anti-narcotics unit. The 42 who failed the tests were among 181 policemen of the Manila suburb of Paranaque who were asked to submit urine samples for examination, Imperal said. Mr. Imperal ordered the examination after receiving reports that one out of every four paranaque policemen were drug users. Twenty-five tested positive for "ice" and 17 for marijuana.

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